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**ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE  
COOK FARM NRHP PROPERTY AND FOUR  
POTENTIALLY RELATED HISTORIC SITES,  
ST. CHARLES TOWNSHIP, FLOYD COUNTY,  
IOWA**

Iowa DOT Project No. F-18-6(32)--20-34

BCA #138A

Prepared for  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
800 Lincoln Way  
Ames, Iowa 50010

Prepared by  
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Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.  
P.O. Box 30  
Decorah, Iowa 52101

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many individuals contributed to the completion of this project. David G. Stanley served as the Principal Investigator for the project, directing all aspects of the investigation. Timothy E. Roberts prepared the overview outlining archeological investigations in the area. Interpretations and specific recommendations for individual archeological sites as well as the archeological site forms were also prepared by Mr. Roberts.

Deborah L. Crown prepared the historic overview of the Cook Farm, conducting extensive archival research and personal interviews. Ms. Crown also assisted in editing and assembling the report, and served as a member of the field crew.

Robert C. Vogel developed the historic context for Floyd County, providing background agricultural history and information regarding the importation of Norman Percheron Horses into the area. Mr. Vogel also contributed to the historic overview of the Cook Farm.

Dr. Teresita Majewski conducted the analysis of the historic artifacts from archeological site 13FD64. Alan Olson provided lab assistance in readying the artifacts for analysis.

Julie McIntyre acted as project manager, and assisted in editing and assembling the report. Heather McNeil also participated in the assembling, reproduction, and publication of the report, and aided in many of the administration tasks.

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## ABSTRACT

A Phase I cultural resource investigation of the U.S. 18/218 highway improvement corridor, Rudd to Charles City, Floyd County, Iowa (Iowa DOT Project No. RP-18-6(32)--16-34), conducted from July-November 1991, resulted in the location of four historic archeological sites which appeared to have some potential relationship to the Cook Farm, an architectural property placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on June 18, 1979 (Roberts, et al. 1992). The historic archeological sites include a stagecoach trail (13FD62), two limestone quarries (13FD63 and 13FD69), and the location of the log cabin of the first Euro-American settler in Floyd County (13FD64). Investigation at the Phase II level (Iowa DOT Project No. F-18-6(32)--20-34) was necessary in order to assess the significance of each site, determine their relationship to the Cook Farm, and to make recommendations concerning their eligibility for nomination to the NRHP, either as separate entities or as part of a historic district with the Cook Farm.

Additional investigation of the Cook Farm itself was also initiated. The Cook Farm was originally listed in the NRHP based largely on the stone architecture of the buildings that comprise the farmstead (National Register Criterion-C). However, it has been suggested by some historical preservationists that the house, outbuildings, and farmlands encompassed by the Cook Farm constitute a specific historic landscape that has been shaped by processes of land use since the mid-19th century (see Appendix I). If these lands were to retain some visual and cultural characteristics indicative of the farm's history, particularly with regard to field patterns, internal circulation (i.e., roads, lanes, etc.), and special use areas, the property might be considered eligible for nomination to the National Register as a rural historic landscape district (see McClelland, et al. 1989).

As a result of the additional research conducted, the limestone quarry at 13FD69 and the stagecoach trail (13FD62) were found to be directly or indirectly related to the Cook Farm NRHP property. The quarry at 13FD69 appears to have been the source of stone for the structures on the farm; however, this site has been previously impacted and is not considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP. Although 13FD62 may have been directly or indirectly related to the Cook Farm property in terms of its proximity to the farmstead, which may have also functioned as a stagecoach stop, and its possible role in the skirmish at Bloody Run (see 'Site 13FD62'), this small remnant of the original road is not considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP. Sites 13FD62 and 13FD69 will both be impacted by the proposed highway corridor.



Site 13FD64, the homestead of the first Euro-American settler in Floyd County, is considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP under National Register Criterion-D as a separate entity from the Cook Farm (Federal Register 1981:50189). This site is located outside of the proposed highway corridor and will not be impacted. The limestone quarry at 13FD63 is not considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP. This site is also located outside of the proposed impact corridor.

Spatial relationships between the Cook Farm buildings and historically related sites is critical to evaluating the farm's significance as an historic landscape. The landscape history connection between the Cook Farm and the archeological sites discussed is difficult to discern; however, the outlying fields, fence rows, and farm lanes of the Cook Farm do not appear to contain visual characteristics indicative of their use during the late-19th century. Therefore, the Cook Farm is not considered eligible for nomination to the National Register as an historic landscape because the rural landscape that characterized the property during the period of its significance (ca. 1850s-1880s) is no longer present.

Although the Cook Farm is not considered eligible for nomination to the National Register as an historic landscape, there is some concern about damage to the structures on the property due to traffic vibrations. Damage to the farm structures from the traffic vibrations of Hwy. 218 is already evident (Plates 6-7). Vibrations testing would be beneficial in determining the potential, if any, for damage to the structures resulting from the placement of the proposed interstate. If the present alignment is implemented, steps should be taken to insure the physical stability of the farm structures in order to guarantee their preservation for future generations.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements.....	i
Abstract.....	ii-iii
Table of Contents.....	iv-v
List of Figures .....	vi
List of Plates.....	vii
 INTRODUCTION .....	 1
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT.....	2
Climate.....	2
Flora and Fauna.....	3
Geology and Geomorphology .....	4
Soil Types.....	4
RESEARCH METHODS.....	4
Archival .....	4
Field.....	6
Artifact Analysis .....	6
Metal.....	6
Other.....	6
CONTACT AND POST-CONTACT PERIOD HISTORIC CONTEXTS FOR FLOYD COUNTY .....	6
The Contact Period Contexts (1640-1850).....	7
The Post-Contact Period Contexts (1851-1942).....	9
Euro-American Immigration and Settlement .....	9
The Changing Iowa Farm .....	11
Overland Transportation .....	15
AN HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF THE COOK FARM .....	20
Introduction.....	20
First Settler .....	20
Jeremiah Eaton and John O'Hair .....	21
Bloody Run.....	23
Elizabeth Strawn.....	24
E. C. Chapin.....	26
A. W. Cook.....	28
A. W. Cook's Life and Work.....	28
A. W. Cook and the Iowa Horse-Breeding Industry.....	30
A. W. Cook's Later Years.....	31
Horace B. and Horace James Olds .....	33
Dave and Judy Hutchins.....	35
Ghosts and Legends.....	37
Conclusions .....	38

EVALUATION OF THE COOK FARM AS AN HISTORIC LANDSCAPE.....	39
RESULTS OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE INVESTIGATIONS.....	41
Introduction.....	41
Site 13FD62.....	41
Description.....	41
Results of Phase I and Phase II Investigations.....	41
Artifact Analysis .....	42
Evaluation.....	43
Sites 13FD63 and 13FD69 .....	43
Description.....	43
Results of Phase I and Phase II Investigations.....	44
Artifact Analysis .....	44
Evaluation.....	44
Site 13FD64.....	45
Description.....	45
Results of Phase I and Phase II Investigations.....	45
Artifact Analysis .....	47
Evaluation.....	49
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS .....	49
 Bibliography.....	53
Figures .....	65
Plates .....	83
Appendix I: Correspondence.....	100
Appendix II: Original NRHP nomination and evaluation forms for Cook Farm.....	101
Appendix III: Supplemental Iowa Site Forms, Sites 13FD62, 13FD63, 13FD64, and 13FD69 .....	102



## List of Figures

- Figure 1. Physiographic location of project area (after Prior 1991).
- Figure 2. Topographic coverage of project area (Charles City 7.5' quad: 1971).
- Figure 3. Project area, circa 1848-1849 (adapted from General Land Office Plats, 1848-1849).
- Figure 4. Project area, circa 1875 (Andreas 1875).
- Figure 5. Project area, circa 1878 (Warner and Foote 1878).
- Figure 6. Project area, circa 1895 (The Union Publishing Company 1895).
- Figure 7. Project area, circa 1904 (Iowa Publishing Co. 1904).
- Figure 8. Project area, circa 1913 (The Anderson Publishing Co. 1913).
- Figure 9. Illustration of the Cook Farm residence (drawn by Tom Mitchell, circa 1980).
- Figure 10. Illustration of the Cook Farm barn (drawn by Tom Mitchell, circa 1980).
- Figure 11. Copy of aerial photograph of Cook Farm with proposed location of highway corridor.
- Figure 12. Affidavit of Publication in The Iowa Homestead.
- Figure 13. Advertisement placed by A. W. Cook in the Charles City Intelligencer.
- Figure 14. Stagecoach lines in Iowa (Monroe and McCartney, eds. 1976).
- Figure 15. 1879 section of "New Road" near site 13FD62.
- Figure 16. Scale map of 13FD64.
- Figure 17. Stratigraphic profile of north wall, Test Unit 1, 13FD64.

## **List of Plates**

- Plate 1. Barn on Cook Farm, looking southeast.
- Plate 2. Looking north at Cook Farm barn.
- Plate 3. Cookhouse on Cook Farm, looking northeast.
- Plate 4. Former location of Cook Farm bunkhouse.
- Plate 5. Looking southwest from proposed highway corridor towards Cook Farm.
- Plate 6. Buckling along east wall of Cook Farm barn. Looking southwest.
- Plate 7. Damage on the interior of the Cook Farm barn, looking west.
- Plate 8. Cook Farm residence, looking north.
- Plate 9. Front view of the Cook Farm residence, looking north.
- Plate 10. Looking southwest at back of Cook Farm residence.
- Plate 11. Recessed front porch on the Cook Farm residence, facing northeast.
- Plate 12. One of the wood floors in the Cook Farm residence.
- Plate 13. Additional photographic coverage of one of the wood floors in the Cook Farm residence.
- Plate 14. Interior of front entrance in the Cook Farm residence.
- Plate 15. Additional photographic coverage of interior of front entrance in the Cook Farm residence.
- Plate 16. Deeply set window sill in the Cook Farm residence.
- Plate 17. Sealed fireplace or "tunnel" in basement of Cook Farm residence.
- Plate 18. Sealed basement window in Cook Farm barn, looking east.
- Plate 19. Portion of archeological site 13FD62 between the Grant House and U. S. Highway 218, looking northwest.
- Plate 20. Archeological site 13FD62, east of the Grant House. Looking west.
- Plate 21. Archeological site 13FD63, facing northwest.
- Plate 22. Entrance to the limestone quarry at 13FD69, facing southeast.
- Plate 23. Archeological site 13FD69, looking south.
- Plate 24. BCA personnel excavating test unit at site 13FD64, looking northeast.
- Plate 25. Photographic coverage of Test Unit 1 (13FD64), looking southeast.
- Plate 26. BCA personnel backfilling Test Unit 3 (13FD64), looking southwest.

## INTRODUCTION

A Phase I cultural resources investigation of the U.S. 18/218 highway improvement corridor, Rudd to Charles City, Floyd County, Iowa, conducted from July-November 1991 (Iowa DOT Project No. RP-18-6(32)--16-34), resulted in the location of four historic archeological sites which appeared to have some potential relationship to the Cook Farm, an architectural property placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on June 18, 1979 (Roberts, et al. 1992). The archeological sites, as well as the Cook Farm, are located in Section 20, T95N, R15W, St. Charles Township, Floyd County, Iowa (Figures 1, 2). The archeological sites include a stagecoach trail (13FD62), two limestone quarries (13FD63 and 13FD69), and the location of the log cabin of the first Euro-American settler in Floyd County (13FD64). The proposed highway corridor will directly impact only two of these sites, the stagecoach trail (13FD62), and one of the limestone quarries (13FD69); however, the Phase I investigation revealed that all four historic sites may have some relationship to the Cook Farm. A Phase II cultural resource investigation (Iowa DOT Project No. F-18-6(32)--20-34) of these sites was recommended in order to fully evaluate the potential significance and eligibility of these sites for nomination to the NRHP. In addition, further investigation of the Cook Farm was conducted to determine the property's significance under other National Register criterion, including those for historic landscapes, which were not fully considered at the time of the farmstead's original nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (the Cook Farm was listed in the NRHP based largely on the stone architecture of the buildings that comprised the farmstead; National Register Criterion-C).

The National Register is part of historic preservation legislation passed by Congress in 1966, and provides a planning framework for the identification, evaluation, and preservation of significant historical, architectural, and archeological properties. Statements of significance or nonsignificance are based upon the NRHP criteria for evaluation, which state:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of state and local importance that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and

A) That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or,



B) That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or,

C) That embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or,

D) That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory (Federal Register 1981:50189).

The four historic archeological sites, as well as Cook Farm, were evaluated according to the above criteria. This report will provide a statement of significance or nonsignificance for each site based on interpretations derived from the information recovered during the Phase II investigations. Archeological materials recovered during this project are curated at the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT**

This chapter outlines the environmental characteristics associated with the project area. The climate, vegetation patterns, geology, geomorphology, and topography are discussed. The purpose of this information is to present a natural context for the project area and for the cultural resources which were examined.

Floyd County is located within the physiographic region known as the Iowan Surface (Figure 1; Prior 1976; 1991). The Iowan Surface is characterized as an erosional surface which developed on Pleistocene and older materials, including loess and loamy sediments overlying bedrock (cf. Ruhe 1969; Hallberg, et al. 1978; Hallberg 1980). Pre-Illinoian till underlies most of the region, although limestone outcroppings do occur in some areas.

The upland soils formed in loess, pre-Illinoian till, or eolian sands along the major river valleys. The soils within the river valleys and low order drainageways developed in Wisconsinan or Holocene alluvial fills (Stanley, et al. 1988).

All four historic archeological site locations, as well as Cook Farm, are situated on upland landforms near the Cedar River valley. The Cedar River flows southeast, eventually converging with the Shell Rock River northwest of Waterloo, Iowa.

## **CLIMATE**

The present climate in northcentral Iowa is a midcontinental, subhumid climate. It is characterized by warm, occasionally dry summers, and cold, dry winters. Rainfall is moderate (total annual

precipitation is 30 inches), with approximately three-fourths of the annual precipitation occurring between the months of April and September. The average amount of snowfall in the project area and general vicinity is approximately 37 inches a year. The growing season of approximately 135 to 140 days begins around the middle of May and ends at the end of September. The average maximum daily temperature in January is 21.9 degrees, and the average minimum daily temperature is 3.9 degrees. In July the average maximum daily temperature is 82.2 degrees, and the minimum is 60.7 degrees (DeWitt 1981).

Although the climate in the Midwest has been relatively stable for the last 4,000 years, there were significant climatic variations during the prehistoric period. Prior to 12,000 years ago the climate was cooler and wetter because parts of the northern hemisphere were blanketed by continental ice masses which reached as far south as Des Moines, Iowa. By 10,000 B.P. a warming trend reduced the ice masses. This warming trend, called the Hypsithermal, continued until approximately 7,000 B.P., at which point climatic conditions became cooler and wetter. By 5,000 B.P. the climate in the Midwest was very similar to what exists today (Wendland 1978).

## FLORA AND FAUNA

The project area is positioned in the northern portion of the Prairie Peninsula (Transeau 1935), which extends from eastern Kansas to Indiana between deciduous forests to the north and south. Prior to the introduction of modern agriculture, the uplands in the region were dominated by prairie vegetation, but deciduous forest existed within the larger valleys and on protected slopes (Wright 1968:83; Davis 1977:205). The bottom land mesic forest would have included box elder, cottonwood, maple, willow, elm, ash, hawthorne, and hickory. Pioneering weeds, willows, and rushes would have clustered along stream banks and wetland areas. Higher terraces and valley sideslopes were likely to have been covered with walnut, oaks, hickory, ironwood, ash, and elm.

According to General Land Office Plats for Floyd County (1848-1849) (Figure 3), the proposed project area was covered by prairie vegetation by the late 1840s. Deciduous forests were located within the Cedar River valley and the lower reaches of adjacent upland drainages. The earliest settlers to the area preferred the oak openings along the prairie-forest margin and the wooded stream valleys over the treeless high prairie. These environments would have supported a diverse array of wildlife, as well as provided much needed timber.

White-tailed deer, raccoon, turkey, grouse, rabbit, and skunk were likely to have occupied wooded areas. The grasslands would have included bison, elk, and prairie chickens. Beaver, otter, turtles, muskrat, and water fowl were common along the streams and wetland areas. Fish, freshwater

mussels, and other aquatic species were common in the larger streams and rivers.

## GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

Devonian-age limestone underlies the Iowan Surface and has resulted in the development of karst features in the region; however it is the wide assortment of Pleistocene-age sediments in the region that have sparked the interest of earth scientists (Prior 1976:15, 1991:70). The Iowan Surface represents a widespread erosion-surface complex (Hallberg, et al. 1978; Prior 1976:52, 1991:69). This area evolved from normal processes of subaerial erosion, acting on a paleosol-covered landscape of pre-Illinoian till, during the period of Wisconsinan loess deposition. The erosion-surface complex advanced in gradual steps from the stream valleys to their bounding interstream divides, and, on each developing level, left a lag concentrate of coarse pebbles from which the clays, silts, and sands were removed by running water, slope wash and wind deflation. These erosional processes occurred during the time loess was being deposited; therefore, a full complement of loess could accumulate only on undisturbed topographic highs--the paha and interstream divides (Prior 1976:52, 1991:70).

## SOIL TYPES

Soils within the proposed project areas have been mapped by the Soil Conservation Service. Soils within the project areas have been mapped as Winneshiek, Sogn, Dickinson, and Ostrander soils, and limestone quarry pits.

Soils along 13FD62 have been mapped as Winneshiek loam (moderately deep, 2-5% slopes) and Sogn loam (14-40% slopes). Winneshiek soils are well-drained soils found on uplands, while Sogn soils are somewhat excessively drained soils located on uplands and terrace escarpments (Voy and Highland 1975:57,65). Site 13FD62 is located on an upland shoulder and drainage sideslope. Soils in the area of site 13FD64 have been mapped as Dickinson soils (0-5% slopes). Soils of this series are well-drained and somewhat excessively drained soils found on ridge crests and sideslopes. Site 13FD64 is located on a relatively level portion of a drainage sideslope. Soils in the vicinity of the Cook Farm NRHP property are mapped as the Ostrander series (0-5% slopes). The well-drained Ostrander soils typically are on lower, convex ridge crests and sideslopes (Buckner 1982:13,93). The Cook Farm is located on a convex ridge.

## RESEARCH METHODS

### ARCHIVAL

The Phase I cultural resource investigation of the U.S. 18/218 highway improvement corridor between Rudd and Charles City provided



substantial historical background data concerning the Cook Farm NRHP property and the four potentially related historic archeological sites; however, additional archival research was necessary to present a complete historic overview of the Cook Farm and to fully evaluate the archeological sites. This additional archival research involved both primary and secondary source materials, including published books and articles, reports of agricultural societies, pamphlets, and newspaper articles concerned with local or regional agricultural history; State and Federal agricultural statistics and population census data pertaining to Floyd County; maps, plats, and atlases (Figures 3-8); and general works on agricultural history, horticulture, and farmstead architecture. Bibliographic control was provided by the Iowa history guides compiled by Petersen (1952), and Dawson and Hudson (1989).

After an initial review of the results of the Highway 18/218, the historical research focused on the refinement of the "Changing Iowa Farm" historic context. More intensive research was directed toward reconstructing the physical history of the Cook property, assembling biographical data on the various individuals connected with the farm, and collecting information about Cook's role in the development of the Iowa horse-breeding industry.

Background information for the following section was drawn primarily from the works of Ross (1951), Bogue, (1963), Hart (1972), Bidwell and Falconer (1925), Iowa State College (1946), and the Federal Writers Project (1945:65-76). A number of books, articles, technical reports, and pamphlets prepared by the state agricultural and horticultural societies, the agricultural experiment station, extension service, and the USDA's statistical reporting service were also consulted in an effort to document A. W. Cook's place in the history of Iowa's livestock industry. Information about Floyd County agriculture was obtained from the annual Report of the Iowa State Agricultural Society (1854-1899), the decennial and quinquennial U. S. Census of Agriculture (U. S. Census Bureau 1850-1925), and thorough research in local history sources. Repositories visited included the Floyd County Courthouse, Charles City; the Floyd County Historical Society, Charles City; and the Charles City Public Library. Oral interviews were conducted with Mr. Dale Warrington, President of the Floyd County Historical Society, and other local landowners.

The brief discussion of the history of agricultural development in Floyd County borrows extensively from overviews of the "Changing Iowa Farm" historic context contained in BCA's report on the cultural resources survey of the Highway 18/218 corridor in Floyd County (Roberts, et al. 1992:55-60) and from an earlier study of the Highway 163 corridor in Jasper, Marion, and Mahaska Counties (Stanley, ed. 1991:90-98). Supplemental research was conducted in both primary and secondary sources by the present writers in June and July 1992.

## FIELD

The four archeological sites investigated within this report were initially identified during the Phase I level of investigation through landowner interviews, pedestrian surveys, and/or limited shovel testing. The present investigation included field checking, mapping, and photographing all four sites, conducting additional subsurface testing of site 13FD62 (a stagecoach trail remnant) with a 3.2 cm soil probe, and excavating additional shovel tests and soil probes and placing 1 m x 1 m and 1 m x 2 m test units within site 13FD64 (the proposed location of Ambrose W. Story's cabin). Shovel tests were approximately 30 cm in diameter and were excavated to a maximum depth of 50 cm. All shovel tests and test units were excavated in arbitrary 10 cm levels, with the fill screened through a 1/4-inch (6.4 mm) wire mesh screen. All cultural features at 13FD64, such as foundations and depressions, were recorded on a sketch map of the area.

## ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

The artifacts were processed at the laboratory facilities of Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. Materials were cleaned, labeled, sorted, and catalogued by lab personnel. The artifacts were analyzed by Dr. Teresita Majewski, University of Arizona, Tucson, utilizing current standard references in historic archeology. The categories that follow were employed for the artifact analysis.

### *Metal*

The majority of cultural material recovered from 13FD64 were metal items. These items were identified according to type of material, method of manufacture, and function. The terminology and chronology utilized in the identification of nail type follows that of Fontana and Greenleaf (1962), Nelson (1968), and Benthall (1973).

### *Other*

This category included all items consisting of materials other than metal. These include quarried limestone, brick fragments, and charcoal fragments. Smith (1976) and Walker (1971) were utilized in the discussion of bricks.

## CONTACT AND POST-CONTACT PERIOD HISTORIC CONTEXTS FOR FLOYD COUNTY

The following historical overview is organized around a number of broad, general themes which are generally applicable to northeast Iowa. For convenience, these themes have been organized chronologically, by historical period. The purpose of this chapter is to provide the reader with

background information about the history of the patterns of settlement and economic development in the Floyd County area. Two post-contact period historical contexts -- "The Changing Iowa Farm" and "Overland Transportation" -- provide the context for the Cook Farm and the four historic archeological sites discussed in this report.

#### THE CONTACT PERIOD CONTEXTS (1640-1850)

Very little is known of the Native American and European presence in the Floyd County region during the Contact Period. From their villages along the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers, hunting parties of Ioway, Sauk, and Fox doubtless ascended the Cedar River in pursuit of bison, elk, and fur-bearing mammals. The region was also well within the range of the powerful Eastern Dakota tribes, although there were probably no major villages closer than those located on the Mississippi near Winona and on the upper Minnesota River.

The Louisiana Purchase was the turning point in the history of Native American occupation of the Iowa region. Peltry and real estate had always been central to Native American-European relations, but after 1803 the character of this relationship changed fundamentally. Under the United States regime, the fur trade was a powerful foreign policy tool for reducing troublesome Indians, and the threat to withhold, or the promise to provide trade or annuities was used to separate the Native Americans from their traditional homelands. Aggressive trading practices caused resentment and bloody reprisals, and government policy notwithstanding, attempts to isolate the tribes from the rising tide of land-hungry settlers were doomed to failure.

Native American title to lands in northeastern Iowa, based on occupation, was officially recognized by all of the colonial powers, whose governments reserved the right to negotiate with the tribes for the use of native lands. Indeed, the French, Spanish, and British showed considerable concern for Native American sovereignty and endeavored to integrate the native peoples into their colonial dominions. The United States Constitution also included a provision recognizing the tribes as sovereign domestic nations. However, during the national and antebellum periods, United States Indian policy shifted toward the dual goals of buying Native American lands in the settled territories and voluntary emigration to designated reservations west of the line of settlement (Prucha 1988). Sauk and Fox sovereignty over Iowa was gradually extinguished by a series of treaties, beginning with the one signed at St. Louis in 1804. The treaty of 1825 fixed tribal boundaries, and in 1830 the United States created the "Neutral Ground" between the Dakota and Fox-Sauk territories. After the tragedy of the Black Hawk War, the demoralized Sauk and Fox were restricted to a four hundred square mile reservation on the Des Moines River, from which they were removed in 1842 to a reservation in Kansas (Royce 1899; cf. Tanner 1987:Maps 30-31).



Floyd County was part of the Neutral Ground, a demilitarized zone between the confederated Sauk and Fox and their traditional enemies, the Dakota, created at the great council held at Prairie du Chien in 1830 (Van der Zee 1915; Stanley, et al. 1991:22-24). The Neutral Ground was forty miles wide and two hundred miles long, stretching from the mouth of the Upper Iowa River to the upper Des Moines River -- Floyd County lies within the northern, or Dakota, half of the tract (Royce Area 153). After the removal of the Sauk and Fox tribes, the United States decided to use the eastern part of the Neutral Ground for the removal of the Winnebago tribe from Wisconsin.

The Winnebago were linguistic relatives of the Ioway, but during the contact period they adopted many of the life ways of their Algonquin neighbors. At the time of initial European contact, their tribal homeland was in east-central Wisconsin, between Green Bay and Lake Winnebago. The French called them Les Puans -- "stinkards" -- and the tribe was nearly annihilated as a result of their wars with the Illiniwek in the late 17th century. However, the Winnebago were able to recover somewhat under the British regime, and emerged in the early 19th century as important middlemen in the western Great Lakes fur trade. Following a nearly bloodless conflict with the United States in 1827, the tribe entered into a series of treaties by which they ceded their lands in central Wisconsin. Ten years later, decimated by disease, the Winnebago sold their remaining tribal lands and reluctantly agreed to move into the Neutral Ground (Lurie 1978; Swanton 1952:258-259; cf. Hexom 1913). A military post, Fort Atkinson, was constructed on the Turkey River to provide for their protection (Mahan 1926:100-119; Stanley, et al. 1991:27-30). In 1837, the first Winnebago bands were escorted across the Mississippi and resettled along the Turkey River.

Once in the Neutral Ground, the Winnebago found themselves plagued by a host of problems: depredations by hostile Dakota bands from the north, indebtedness to unscrupulous fur traders, shortfalls in their government annuities, encroachment of Euro-American settlers, and general malaise. Substantial numbers of Winnebagoes stayed behind in Wisconsin, or drifted away from the Neutral Ground to become vagabonds (Merry and Green 1989). In 1848 the unhappy tribe was relocated again, this time to a reservation at Long Prairie, Minnesota Territory, where they remained until 1855, when they were established on a reservation on the Blue Earth River. In the aftermath of the Dakota Conflict of 1862, the Winnebago were expelled from Minnesota and transported to South Dakota, eventually settling on a reservation in Nebraska (Mahan 1926:201-240).

At the time of initial Euro-American settlement, Floyd County was home to roaming bands of Native Americans. In 1850, Joseph Kelly found a Winnebago village of one hundred and fifty lodges under chief White Cloud at the site now occupied by Charles City (Andreas 1875:503; Webster 1897:25-27). The village was called Wa-Shood Ne-shun-a-gah-tah, "timber river village," and White Cloud's band figured prominently in the complex state

of affairs involving the Winnebago and the Neutral Ground. The old county history places the Winnebago encampment of Wapinicon, alias "Captain Jim," on the Cedar a mile or so above town, and this small group coexisted with the pioneers of St. Charles for several years. There was also a Native American camp near present-day Rudd, and small bands of Winnebagoes and Fox continued to visit Floyd County until at least the 1860s (Montag, ed. 1882:250-256).

## THE POST-CONTACT PERIOD CONTEXTS (1851-1942)

The post-contact period historic contexts describe the general outline of Euro-American settlement and development in the Floyd County area from the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries. The focus is on land use activities which largely determined patterns of settlement and development within the project area during this period.

Euro-American Immigration and Settlement. Territorial jurisdiction over northeast Iowa was kaleidoscopic. In 1804 Congress established the District of Louisiana, encompassing the Louisiana Purchase north of the Territory of Orleans and including all of what is now Iowa. From 1805 until 1821, the country north of the Des Moines River was part of the Missouri Territory. After Missouri was admitted to the Union as a state, the northern district was left as unorganized territory until 1834, when Congress attached it to the Territory of Michigan for judicial purposes. The name "Iowa" was assigned to the region by Lieutenant Albert M. Lea in 1836, when the district formed part of the Wisconsin Territory. The Territory of Iowa, which originally included the present states of Iowa and Minnesota as well as parts of the Dakotas, was formally created by act of Congress on July 4, 1838. The clamor for statehood culminated in Iowa's admission to the Union with its present boundaries on December 28, 1846. Northeast Iowa was organized into counties even before all of the Neutral Ground was opened up to settlement (see Sage 1974:23-91).

Floyd County, named in honor of William Floyd, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, or Sergeant Charles Floyd, the unfortunate member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (see Montag, ed. 1882:324-326; cf. Fleming 1921), was opened to settlement in 1850. It is somewhat unclear who the first Euro-American settler in Floyd County was, but the honor is commonly given to Ambrose W. Story who did the first ground "breaking" in the county. Mr. Story moved into Floyd County in the spring of 1850 and constructed a log cabin near the Cedar River, approximately three miles south of where Charles City now stands and on the southeast corner of the property which would eventually be owned by A. W. Cook, Section 20, T95N, R15W (Montag, ed. 1882:257; Monroe and McCartney, eds. 1976:6-7).

Later that same year, Joseph Kelly located a claim on the Cedar River, where he subsequently erected a sawmill and laid out a townsite he christened St. Charles. Kelly's townsite claim was later bought out by a

group of capitalists from Rockford, Illinois, who enlarged the platted area and renamed the town Charles City. The town enjoyed steady and substantial growth as a regional trade entrepot, railway shipping point, and manufacturing center (Montag, ed. 1882:668-790). During the late-19th and early-20th centuries, Charles City was one of the premier grain markets in the region, with four major flouring mills (Swisher 1940:255). Although formally created by the state assembly in 1851, county government was not organized until 1854, when Floyd was separated from Chickasaw County. Like many other Iowa counties, Floyd passed through a protracted struggle with regard to the location of the county seat and the contest between Charles City, *nee* St. Charles, and Floyd was not finally decided until 1858. Initial Euro-American settlement was concentrated in the oak openings along the Cedar and in the "Big Woods" in the eastern part of the county, but spread quickly over the upland prairies (Montag, ed. 1882:249-1029; Andreas 1875:503-504; see also GLO 1848-1849; Henn, Williams & Co. 1858; and Figures 9-12).

According to the census rolls, most of the immigrants who rushed into Floyd County between 1850 and 1870 were second-generation pioneers who had grown up in Ohio, Indiana, or Wisconsin. Many were landless Yankees from Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and upstate New York -- indeed, New York is by far the most often given place of nativity for the Floyd County patrons of Andreas' Illustrated Historical Atlas (1875:515). Floyd County shared with the rest of Iowa a sprinkling of Germans, Scotch, and Canadians among its pioneers. The wave of Scandinavian emigration began in the 1850s and intensified after the Civil War.

The earliest settlers preferred the oak openings along the prairie-forest margin and the wooded stream valleys over the treeless high prairie. The preferred sites for pioneer farmsteads had both prairie and timber -- early immigrant guides and farmers' diaries indicate that there was much disagreement over the ideal proportion of woods to open land -- and most of the high prairie was claimed by speculators who did not actually attempt to make a living there. However, by the 1860s the revolution in agricultural technology, to say nothing of the skyrocketing market demand for Midwestern produce, made prairie farmsteads desirable (see Hewes 1960). Settlement proceeded in fan-shaped waves up the river valleys and across the upland prairies.

One of the enduring myths of the pioneer era holds that the first settlers were self-educated, uncultured hicks. This certainly was not the case in Floyd County, where the New England background of many of the pioneer settlers placed a premium on free public education. By law, one section in each township was set aside for "school lands," and while the process of selecting, surveying, registering, and disposing of these reserved lands was slow, local school boards eventually received funds to capitalize rural and town school systems. Once the land sale proceeds were expended, schools had to rely upon local taxes, which sometimes proved insufficient for making needed improvements. Nevertheless, by the turn of

the century there were more than one hundred rural schools in the county (Montag, ed. 1882:579-580; Floyd County Historical Society n.d.).

The Changing Iowa Farm. For more than a century after initial Euro-American settlement, the livelihood of most of the inhabitants of Floyd County was involved in one way or another with farming. In the early 1850s, a line of farmsteads and hamlets was established along the Cedar River and its tributaries. Primarily of northeastern background, the first wave of Euro-American settlers tended to remain close to the timbered stream valleys and were cautious about venturing onto the open prairies. As late as 1870, the rural population was more dense along the Cedar, in St. Charles and Floyd townships, than in Rudd (Parker 1856; Andreas 1875; U.S. Census 1860, 1870).

Corn, potatoes, and garden vegetables were the main subsistence crops, augmented by small herds of cattle and hogs. As local markets and roads developed, farming became gradually more diversified to the extent that small grains and livestock raising assumed greater importance. The only pioneer cash crop was wheat: demand for wheat was such that production of that grain as a cash crop shifted steadily westward (see Schmidt 1920), reaching Floyd County around the time of the Civil War, and coinciding with the development of the upland prairies. Wheat was harvested, threshed, and loaded onto wagons for the arduous trip to the mill. In the early days, local farmers hauled their grain as far as McGregor, on the Mississippi River. Despite a shortage of feed crops, farmers also kept herds of cattle and swine, which were allowed to run on what amounted to open range conditions. After wheat, hogs were the second most important agricultural export from the county until the final decades of the century.

Some of the earliest immigrant guides (e.g., Newhall 1846:16-18; Parker 1855:25-28) had waxed eloquent about the agricultural potential of the Iowa prairies. The scale, range, and efficiency of the farming methods set the agricultural development of prairie counties settled after ca. 1850 apart from the areas settled earlier. Most of the new agricultural technologies developed initially in Illinois and elsewhere in the older Middle West. These new technologies made possible the exploitation of the prairie biome in ways that had been unimaginable only decades earlier. New agricultural technologies, most of them developed initially in Illinois and elsewhere in the older Middle West, made possible the exploitation of the prairie biome in ways undreamed of only decades earlier. Plows were modified and improved: John Deere introduced his steel plow in 1837 and specialized prairie-breaking plows were introduced in the 1850s. The mechanical reaper, invented by Cyrus McCormick in 1831, replaced the sickle, scythe, and cradle in harvesting grains, and in the 1850s mechanical threshers began to replace manual flailing and winnowing. Between the 1840s and the 1860s, major improvements had also been made to disk harrows, seed drills, cultivators, binders, and rakes (Bogue 1963; Ankli 1980; Kleinhesselink 1982).

The growth of Floyd County as part of the Corn Belt agricultural region reflected the transition from a frontier subsistence economy in the 1850s to commercial farming in the 1870s, a development described by the novelist Hamlin Garland (1917:144):

The early seventies were years of swift change on the Middle Border. Day by day the settlement thickened. Section by section the prairie was blackened by the plow. Month by month the sweet wild meadows were fenced and pastured and so at last the colts and cows all came into captivity, and our horseback riding ceased, cut short as if by some imperial decree. Lanes of barbed wire replaced the winding wagon trails, our saddled gathered dust in the grain-sheds, and groves of Lombardy poplar and European larch replaced the tow-heads of aspen and hazel through which we had pursued the wolf and fox.

With the coming of the railroad, many farmers in Floyd County turned to large-scale wheat farming. Much of the land in the U.S. 18/218 corridor is generally level or gently rolling, with deep, warm, fertile soils that are rich in organic matter and nitrogen. Therefore, it came as no surprise to mid-19th century agrarians that Floyd County was well suited to the production of grains.

Railroads and wheat shaped local agricultural development between ca. 1860 and 1880, when "King Wheat" transformed the Midwest (Schmidt 1920). During the decade after the Civil War, Floyd County farmers turned to cash grain farming, a revolutionary departure from the pioneer subsistence mode of production. This was agribusiness in every sense of the term, an industry based on heavy capital investment in planting and harvesting machines, hired seasonal mass labor, railroad transport, and marketing. Such was the scale of wheat farming that some local agrarians were as much grain speculators as they were farmers. Wheat production in Floyd County seems to have peaked ca. 1880 and declined rapidly thereafter, the result of soil exhaustion, inflated land values, and "grain dumping" by the railroads.

After the decline of King Wheat, Floyd County farmers became more diversified and by ca. 1880 the mixed crop and livestock farming system of the Corn Belt (see Hart 1972:265-271) had become the basic farming system in Floyd County. The climate, soils, and topography of the area lent itself to intensive, mechanized corn cropping. Because corn quickly exhausts soil fertility, farmers developed the three-crop rotation system to protect and replenish soil productivity.

This shift in local agricultural production mirrored a regional trend toward diversification is described by Ross (1951:75):

The state's major interest in the transition to a permanent economy was in the peculiar adaptability of the region to corn growing and the most profitable utilization of this dominant American cereal in fattening hogs. With the decline of wheat growing, corn became for the whole state the dependable and basic crop

about which the dominant enterprises centered. In 1869 and 1879 Iowa ranked second to Illinois but in another decade took the lead. By 1889 the state also led in the production of oats which provided the most natural and adaptable supplemental grain in the rotation system.

Corn was and still is the dominant field crop in Floyd County, although it did not become so until after the King Wheat era (Schmidt 1923). Historically, the crop rotation was corn, oats, and soybeans. Primarily a meat-producing feed, the corn was consumed on the farm by hogs, beef cattle, and sheep (Office of Agricultural Statistics 1940; Iowa Crop and Livestock Reporting Service 1957). Hay and oats were also grown for animal feed, although some was sold off-farm along with surplus corn. Garden vegetables, flax, broom corn, sorghum, and potatoes were also grown in quantities during the late-19th century (Montag, ed. 1882:505-506). Soybeans became the predominant cash crop after the mid-20th century, replacing oats and wheat.

Hogs and beef cattle have traditionally been the mainstays of the Corn Belt farming system. The attraction of the system was that by feeding their corn to livestock, farmers could turn a larger profit without having to substantially increase their capital investment in land or machinery. After ca. 1870, the typical Floyd County farmer kept hogs and a beef-breeding herd and fattened most, if not all of the livestock raised on the farm. Because hogs convert feed grains most efficiently into meat, they were the most important livestock on local farms (see Quaife and Anderson 1952). Beef cattle used more grain but were sometimes more profitable, as in the late-19th and early-20th centuries, when feedlots became common (see Whitaker 1975). Shortly after the Civil War, Iowa farmers started receiving significant numbers of western range cattle and by the turn of the century livestock feeding was the dominant agricultural enterprise in Floyd County. Most of the farms in the Highway 18/218 corridor traditionally fattened hogs and cattle for market and many do so today. Sheep production increased after 1930 (Office of Agricultural Statistics 1940), but declined after the war. The first Devon cattle were introduced in 1856 and by the 1870s several local farmers were well known for their blooded stock of cattle and horses (Montag, ed. 1882:535). In recent years, beef cattle have become more important than hogs throughout the region.

Dairying was also an important farm enterprise in parts of Floyd County, although most of the farmers who kept dairy cows took in only relatively small amounts from the sale of milk or cream. Farms which specialized in dairying tended to be small and often included wooded areas not readily suitable to cultivation. After ca. 1920, mechanization made it profitable to provide feed crops on relatively small acreages, and to use rough land for pasturing dairy herds. Because milk is highly perishable as well as expensive to transport, most dairy farms were located on the better roads, advantageously situated with respect to collection routes and creameries serving urban markets. The chief field crops on dairy farms were corn, oats, and hay. Some of the grain (as well as the skim milk) was fed to hogs (Lewthwaite 1975).



The period between ca. 1897 and 1920 is known as the "Golden Age of Agriculture" in the Midwest. By the end of the 19th century, Floyd County farmers were producing such large surpluses of corn, wheat, pork, beef, and dairy products that there was talk of voluntary controls on production. The war in Europe, however, expanded overseas markets and boosted farm income. "Food will win the war!" became the centerpiece of a new Federal government farm policy, which promulgated price controls and an aggressive program of increasing farm production. Responding to the new world order, many local farmers acquired additional land, or started cultivating rough or wooded land. Land values skyrocketed. Sales of farm machinery, breeding stock, and new buildings also increased.

The state census of 1915 paints a picture of nearly boundless prosperity for Floyd County's 1,788 farmers (State of Iowa 1915). In 1914, nearly all of the arable land within the county boundaries were under cultivation: there were 87,777 acres planted in corn, producing more than 3.6 million bushels; 75,794 acres were devoted to oats, yielding more than 2.3 million bushels; in addition, 22,167 bushels of wheat were produced on 1,515 acres. Potatoes, clover, sweet corn, timothy, hay, and forage crops were also grown in quantities. Much of the field crops went to feed the 54,349 hogs, 12,560 calves, 6,180 steers, 1,141 bulls, and 4,528 heifers enumerated; 11,397 milk cows produced dairy products valued at more than \$359,000.

The agricultural crisis of 1920 was particularly severe in Floyd County. Literally overnight, government price controls ended, foreign export markets dried up, railroad freight rates rose, and commodity prices plummeted (see Sage 1974:252-254). In many ways, the return to a free market economy was a disaster comparable to the Panic of 1857. The records of the County Recorder and Assessor show that the sudden loss of parity of income -- estimated by some to have reached approximately 50% -- wiped out many family farms, as well as banks, farm implement dealers, and smalltown merchants. Many farms were foreclosed on and sold at sheriff's sales; others were considerably reduced in size. Production declined slowly at first (see State of Iowa 1920), as farmers continued to grow corn and oats and fatten hogs and cattle for which there was no profitable outlet. The farm crisis of the 1920s worsened after the Panic of 1929 plunged the rest of the national economy into depression. World War II brought a return to prosperity, but this new golden age was accompanied by profound changes in agribusiness, affecting everything from the number and size of farms to new markets and crops (Sage 1974:315-318; Ross 1951).

Great changes have occurred in the last 130 years on all of the farms along the U.S. Highway 18/218 project corridor. Farmers have adopted new technologies and improved production practices, including hybrid seed corn, improved fertilizers, and formula feeds. Investment in modern machinery, equipment, and buildings has increased tenfold. Crop yields per acre and livestock production per animal have also increased. Changes

in land use include substantial increases in soybean production, with corresponding decreases in oats and wheat; reduction in corn acreage planted has been offset by increased yields. The number of hogs and feeder cattle have declined in recent years. However, in terms of the rural landscape, the basic Corn Belt farming system remains largely intact.

Changes in the number and size of farms in the project area illustrate the changes in agriculture, particularly those which have occurred over the past fifty years. According to census data and information obtained from the county extension office, since World War II area farms have tended to become larger in terms of acreage in production, but less numerous in terms of the aggregate number of family farms within a given area. This increase in farm size has been caused by amalgamation of two or more family farms into a single operating unit, and through accretion of smaller parcels to existing farms. The general decline in farm population since ca. 1940, combined with the rising cost of farmland in the late-20th century, has led to increases both in farm tenancy and in corporate ownership.

Overland Transportation. According to an 1882 county history, before the coming of the railroads there were "[n]o bridges, no roads anywhere" in the county (Montag, ed. 1882:814). Early pedestrian travel followed "farm lines" that cut across fields, generally following the high ground (Webster 1897:34). Walking, one could average about a mile per hour under good traveling conditions. Mounted on horseback, one could travel two to four miles per hour. The horse-drawn wagon was the dominant form of wheeled transport, but wagon travel over primitive dirt roads required much hard, back-breaking labor and was usually no faster than travel afoot.

It wasn't that the pioneers were indifferent to the need for roads and bridges. Wagons were essential for the development of farms throughout Floyd County, even after the arrival of the railroads. Hauling bulk agricultural produce to distant markets was not always profitable because of price fluctuations and dangerous road conditions. However, transporting wagonloads of processed wheat flour, shelled corn, pork, beef, or butter over relatively short distances to towns or railroad shipping points was sufficiently remunerative to encourage the development of inter-county roads. Unfortunately, road building was almost totally the responsibility of local units of governments, and there was little public money that could be spared for roads.

The advent of stagecoach and freight lines in the 1850s led to the development of public highways between major towns. The first public road in the county, the "Independence and State Line Road," was laid out from Charles City through Floyd in 1854 (Montag, ed. 1882:263; see Henn, Williams & Co. 1858). By 1857, local farmers were shipping their wheat overland in wagons to McGregor (Montag, ed. 1882:265). As government roads were completed between Cedar Rapids, Charles City, and McGregor,

county roads linked up with them, facilitating the movement of farm produce, freight, and travelers throughout the countryside (see Mendenhall 1855; Henn, Williams & Co. 1858; Andreas 1875). The first county road tax, 1 mill on the dollar, was levied in 1855 and afterwards changed to a two dollar poll tax (Montag, ed. 1882:551). Given the scarcity of local government financial resources, it is not surprising that so few good local roads were built during the mid- to late-19th century.

Railroads redefined the geography of Iowa and Floyd County (see Railroad Commissioners 1881; Warner & Foote 1885; Galbraith 1897). Under their impact, the commercial axis of Iowa and the Middle West shifted from north-south to east-west. Railroads also stimulated economic growth by expanding markets and communications networks, and by developing railway towns. Railroads also employed substantial numbers of skilled and non-skilled laborers and devoured large quantities of coal, wood, sand, and gravel, a boon to local economies.

With operations extending over hundreds of miles, railroad companies were required to construct and maintain a vast inventory of rolling stock, roadbed, bridges, depots, telegraph lines, shops, warehouses, and office buildings. To control their far-flung empires, the railroads affected a revolution in business management. During the mid-19th century, a number of great railway companies emerged, combining numerous smaller railroad companies into regional transportation systems. The operations of companies such as the Milwaukee Road and the Illinois Central spawned a new business bureaucracy based upon complex hierarchical tables of organization. Railroads divided their operations into functional divisions and gave local superintendents responsibility for moving passengers and freight, while the managerial elite at the central offices concentrated on finance, planning, and administration (Stover 1961).

"Very few counties in Iowa have been more fortunate in securing railroad facilities," declared the author of the historical sketch of Floyd County printed in Andreas' atlas (1875:503). During the mid-19th century, the citizens of Floyd County voted stock subscriptions to several railroad projects, most of which terminated abortively. The need to link Iowa with Chicago, St. Louis, St. Paul, and Kansas City also served as a pretext for state aid to railroads in the form of large land grants.

The names of some of Floyd County's historic railroads are unfamiliar to modern Iowans. The Cedar Falls & Minnesota Railroad, originally founded in 1857 as the Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska Railroad, passed up the Cedar valley on the east side of the river. The line reached Charles City in 1868 and maintained a station at Floyd (Montag, ed. 1882:573). The railroad's parent company, the Illinois Central, had been founded in 1851 by the Illinois legislature and reached Dunleith on the Mississippi, opposite Dubuque, in 1855, and was extended as far as Cedar Falls by 1861 (Corliss 1950:141-154; Donovan 1962; see also Rand McNally & Co. 1873).

The McGregor & Sioux City Railroad had depots at Charles City, Floyd, Rudd, and Nora Springs -- the Floyd depot was actually located some distance south of town at Floyd Crossing. Its first train reached Charles City in 1869, opening up connections to the great grain milling centers at Milwaukee and, later, Minneapolis (Montag, ed. 1882:562). Chicago and Milwaukee capitalists owned the railroad, which was operated as a line of the Iowa & Dakota Division of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific, the famous "Milwaukee Road" (see Rand McNally & Co. 1873; Colton & Colton 1881). Originally chartered as the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad, it reached Prairie du Chien in 1857 and struck out northwestward to St. Paul and westward across northern Iowa (Agnew 1953; Donovan 1964).

The Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minnesota Railroad also crossed the county, with stations at Marble Rock, Rockford, and Nora Springs (see Rand McNally & Co. 1873). A later railroad, the Iowa Terminal, also known as the Charles City Western, ran from Colwell, in Niles Township, southwest through Charles City to link up with the Burlington line at Marble Rock, but was dismantled after World War II.

While there were some tolerable graveled roads in rural Floyd County by the late-19th century, most township roads were little more than rutted lanes between fields, gullied and washed out on nearly every hillside, impassable to wheeled vehicles in bad weather and dangerous to equestrian or pedestrian travel as well. Rights-of-way were narrow and often crooked. Bridges were rickety, wooden affairs, except those carrying the traffic of major roads over the Cedar, which were somewhat better designed and executed. Road signage was minimal and maintenance was medieval: labor and equipment were provided by farmers who lived along the road and who had the option of paying their road taxes in kind. Efforts at road improvement consisted largely of using hand tools, sometimes augmented by horse-drawn draglines, to grade and fill roadways. Nevertheless, somehow the produce of Rudd, Floyd, and St. Charles townships found its way to market over these wretched thoroughfares.

The local road system was based upon the concept of local government jurisdiction over public thoroughfares. Each county was divided into road districts, each overseen by a local road boss who was elected at the annual town meetings. Some road districts had only a few miles of public right-of-way crossing tens of thousands of dollars worth of taxable property, while others had several town roads but little tax base. The road tax could be paid in cash, but most farmers opted to pay in kind by donating a day or two's labor. Each spring, the township road overseers made their rounds, warning the people in their districts to turn out for road work. After some pothole filling, grading, bridge mending, -- and according to local lore, a good deal of leaning on shovels and listening to old men telling stories -- the year's roadwork ended. Some townships directed the overseer to hire out men and teams to work on the roads year-round, but

as most of the road districts in Floyd County had about \$200 to expend annually on roads, relatively little could be accomplished.

The "Good Roads Movement" of 1883-1904 changed the landscape of Iowa forever. A series of conventions were called to put forward the cause of good roads and compel the state assembly to inaugurate the modern highway system that was proving so successful in some of the Eastern states (Brindley 1912:184-216). The introduction of the automobile and the truck (see Zug 1962) gave further impetus to the Good Roads Movement. The 1890s were the experimental period for the American motor industry: by 1900, a dozen manufacturers had produced about four thousand cars, but by the end of the next decade there were almost two hundred thousand motor vehicles on the road. By the 1920s, automobiles were a commonplace of travel throughout Iowa and within a generation, trucking surpassed rail transport in importance.

By the 1880s, the road situation in rural Iowa was so bad that lawmakers were forced to make road legislation a priority. In 1884 legislation was enacted to reform the financing of local roads. This basic road law was considerably strengthened in 1902 by an act that consolidated townships into road districts, established county road funds and tax levies, and required that road taxes be paid in cash. A constitutional amendment in 1904 paved the way for a state highway commission and a state tax to aid Iowa roads (Brindley 1912; Nelson 1988). By ca. 1910, an organized "cross-state highways" movement was underway (Iowa State Highway Commission 1963). The first highways were dirt roads, smoother and wider than the old county roads, but still seasonal, and unnumbered until 1920 (Nelson 1988:12). The use of bituminous macadam surfaces, introduced ca. 1904 in the Eastern U.S., was not common in Iowa until after 1928, when two-lane highways of ten-foot widths became the norm. Even with these advancements, progress was uneven, and rural road building was slow until World War I (Nelson 1988:3-14; Davis 1964:321-322).

The "Good Roads Movement" also affected Congress. The Post Office Appropriation Act of 1912 allocated half a million dollars for post roads. In 1916 Congress passed the Federal Aid Act, which provided Federal aid to the states for road building. More than 1.3 million miles of highway was built under the act between the First and Second World Wars. In 1925, the U.S. Department of Agriculture undertook the first comprehensive study of a national system of trunk highways. The National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 also provided grants to various state highway departments and in 1936 the Federal Aid Secondary System was established to build farm-to-market roads and rural school bus routes (Brindley 1912; Miller 1950; Rose 1950).

The effect of improved roads and automotive transport in Floyd County was to increase the ability of farmers to reach markets and trading centers. In the cases of Rudd and Floyd, this meant bypassing the older farm trade centers in favor of Charles City. After 1930, rural villages and

hamlets steadily lost many of their central place functions and their populations.

The automobile revolution led to other societal changes which affected the physical patterns on the rural landscape. For example, along with the improvement of the rural roads went improvement in the postal services. Before the advent of rural free delivery, farmers had to rely upon village post offices, which were usually several miles distant (U. S. Postal Service 1917). In addition, the private automobile, combined with all-weather roads, allowed wealthier urbanites to move away from the downtown areas into the rural countryside. By the 1950s, suburbanization had started to transform the rural landscape around Charles City. Commercial and industrial activities expanded on the outskirts of the city.

U.S. Highway 218, the "Red Ball Route", was established in 1913 as the direct route from Keokuk to the Twin Cities. The name, "Red Ball Route", was derived from the distinctive route marker with its six-inch red ball, which was nailed onto telephone poles along the road (see Nelson 1988:13). The route received its official highway number in 1924. In 1933, that part of Highway 218 from its junction with U.S. 18 to the Mitchell County line was paved to an 18-foot width. U.S. Highway 18 was paved through Floyd County in 1920; the bypasses were paved in 1934 (Historical Committee 1976:36).

The construction of modern roads entailed much more than simply surveying a practicable route and surfacing it with a durable pavement. Professional traffic engineers were employed to develop each road's functional specifications, based on the volume of traffic, speed, rivers to be crossed, etc. The actual civil engineering was largely a matter of mechanized routine: topsoil was scraped away, graded, and replaced by the roadbed footing, consisting of crushed rock, gravel, clay, or sand; then the roadbed paving was laid down by equipment using wet mixed concrete, asphalt, or asphaltic concrete. Expansion joints guarded against the effects of extreme temperature changes. Roadside ditches and culverts carried off rainwater and snowmelt. Most importantly, state and county workers were employed to routinely maintain and repair the road system, their efforts funded by an array of taxes.

A minor local industry associated with transportation was sand and gravel quarrying. As early as the 1860s, quarries were opened along the Cedar River to provide sand and gravel for railroad grades. The quarry at 13FD69, located on the west bank of the Cedar River southeast of Charles City, is the likely source of stone for structures on the Cook Farm. In the 20th century, limestone was used primarily for road construction and maintenance.



# **AN HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF THE COOK FARM**

## **Introduction**

The Cook Farm is an historically and architecturally significant farmstead located southeast of Charles City in Floyd County, Iowa. The farm, currently operated as a family run business referred to as Yesterfarm, Inc., encompasses a total of 100 acres (40.50 hectares). Four acres (1.62 hectares) of the farm are already on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) due to the architectural importance of the stone buildings on the property (Appendix II; Figures 9-11). Archival research conducted in June and July, 1992 has provided important information regarding the former inhabitants of the farm and the developments which have taken place there during the past years of its existence.

The lives and activities of the farm's previous owners were researched with the aid of Floyd County history books, obituaries, newspapers, personal interviews, and probate records. Land deed records and land transfer records were examined in order to accurately determine how the legal boundaries of the property have changed over time. Unfortunately, during the course of this research, the abstract for the property was never located. The property abstract would have provided a clear, concise description of the farm's legal boundaries and would have made the transferring of the property from one owner to the next much easier to accurately determine.

This historical overview was researched and written by the personnel of Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. (BCA) in order to provide the Iowa Department of Transportation with a larger quantity of accurate information regarding the Cook Farm, located two miles (3.22 kilometers) south of Charles City, Iowa on Highway 218. This report provides additional information regarding the farm's extensive history, former inhabitants, livestock activities of the time period which specifically affected Floyd County, and legends associated with the Cook Farm.

## **First Settler**

Many sources indicate that the land was first settled by Ambrose W. Story circa. 1850. According to various accounts, Story and his family constructed a log cabin in Floyd County in the Spring of 1850 near the Cedar River on the southeast corner of the farm later owned by A. W. Cook. In The History of Floyd County, Iowa, published in 1882, it is stated that "Here Mr. Story did the first breaking in the county, and it is therefore definitely determined that he was an actual 'settler,' and therefore the first in Floyd County" (Montag, ed. 1882:257; Monroe and McCartney, eds. 1976:6-7). Story's child was the first documented Euro-American child born in the county, but unfortunately died at an early age. Story himself was killed in a skirmish with the Dakota Indians during a Buffalo hunt in Wyoming.

Although many sources state that Ambrose Story was indeed the first actual settler in the county, there is no record of his actually owning the land on which the Cook Farm was later built. According to the Original Entry Book, on file in the Office of the Recorder, Floyd County, property was claimed by pioneers, usually in 40 acre (16.20 hectares) blocks from the United States Government. The 40 acre block in which the proposed Story cabin is located was originally purchased by Jonathan J. Stone from the government on January 26, 1853 (legal location: NE1/4 SE1/4, Section 20, Township 95, Range 15; Original Entry Book 1852-1856). The 40 acre block which included the eventual Cook Farm property (legal location: SE1/4 NW1/4, Section 20, Township 95, Range 15) was also owned by Jonathan Stone, and purchased on January 26, 1853 (Original Entry Book 1852-1856). Although A. W. Story was probably living on the property, it is virtually impossible that he ever owned it since the first to buy the land from the government was Jonathan Stone, some three years after Story first arrived. Story did, however, stay around Charles City for some time anyway, and is listed as purchasing different lots from the government for himself (Original Entry Book 1852-1856).

The cellar and foundation of the log cabin built by Story and his family were still visible in 1882 (Montag, ed. 1882:257). A newspaper article in The Charles City Press claims that the foundation of the cabin was still outlined in 1967, according to the children of Ray Franke who lived there from 1960-1975 (Charles City Press 1967; Joyce Franke Anderson, personal communication 1992). A Phase II archeological investigation of the cabin site was conducted by BCA personnel in June, 1992 which uncovered significant artifacts and information regarding the construction date and general characteristics of the cabin (See description of site 13FD64).

### **Jeremiah Eaton and John O'Hair**

Since Floyd County was not organized until about 1854, land records dated before this time are difficult, if not impossible, to locate (Monroe, and McCartney, eds. 1976). Earlier records for the southern half of what was to become Floyd County were maintained by Chickasaw County; unfortunately, an examination of these earlier records provided no significant information. The earliest land and property records found in the Auditor and Clerk Offices of the Floyd County courthouse state that the property of Section 20, Township 95, Range 15 (the Cook Farm property) was sold by Jonathan Stone to Jeremiah Eaton on October 25, 1853 (Deed Index Lands 1854-1857, v.A).

Although Eaton and his family owned the land, it is unclear whether or not they actually ever lived on the farm since none of the buildings had been constructed at the time of the Eaton purchase. Two and a half years after purchasing the land, Eaton sold it to John O'Hair and his family on February 19, 1856 for \$6,200.00 (Deed Record Lands 1856, v.B:200-201). The specific legal location of the property was the entire S1/2; the S1/2 NW1/4;

and the NW1/4 NW1/4, all of Section 20 with the exception of 10 unspecified acres (Deed Record Lands 1856, v.B:200-201).

Some sources credit James O'Hair, John's son, for the developments taking place on the farm while the O'Hair family was living there. John O'Hair was in his fifties so it is not unlikely that the younger James was in charge of much of the construction. According to most sources, the O'Hair family is credited for building the square portion of the barn, one addition to the barn, and the cookhouse, which currently stands behind the larger house (Figure 10; Plates 1-3). The 1979 NRHP evaluation form for the Cook Farm describes the architecture of the small house in detail:

Directly behind the main house is a considerably smaller stone house, its walls laid up with rubble ashlar. This little (18' x 22') side gable structure has a 12' x 12' kitchen section on the east end. Window and door openings have flat arches with roughly [sic] cut radiating voussoirs. The main entrance is centered in the south wall. The east wall has a doorway into the kitchen area, and another opening directly outside. The house was once partitioned into two rooms; it is now one, with a concrete floor.

(NRHP evaluation 1979)

The small house, "with its basic form, rubble walls and roughly-shaped jack arches, is true 'pioneer' architecture, demonstrating extreme economy of effort in the use of local materials" (NRHP evaluation 1979). The stones for the buildings were supposedly quarried locally, as were the stones used for the later buildings. According to A. W. Cook, in an advertisement he placed regarding the farm, "The buildings are all finely situated and conveniently arranged, of the most complete, thorough workmanship, built of the fine gray limestone, quarried on the place, and of which there is an inexhaustible supply" (A.W. Cook probate ca. 1887).

The square barn is very significant in the history of Iowa. According to the NRHP evaluation, "Native stone buildings from the mid 19th century are significant for their very scarcity in Iowa.... Most of these buildings are houses, with schools and churches next in number. *Of extreme rarity are stone barns* " (NRHP evaluation 1979; our emphasis). Furthermore, the cubic form of the west section of the barn is virtually unknown in the state.

Since all of the buildings are built of limestone and are becoming worn with age, there is concern about the construction of the proposed interstate, "Avenue of the Saints," which would "cut this historic farm in two and run within several hundred feet of the the buildings themselves" (Mark W. Fransdal, personal communication 1991; Figure 11; Plate 5). Damage to the farm structures from the traffic vibrations of Hwy. 218 is already evident (Plates 6-7), and many people are concerned about further deterioration of the area due to interstate highway construction. Vibrations testing would be beneficial in determining the degree of physical repercussions that the National Register property would suffer due to the

size and proximity of the proposed interstate. If the present alignment is implemented, steps should be taken to insure the physical stability of the farm structures in order to guarantee their preservation for the future.

The large square barn is occasionally assumed to have been built about the same time as the main house (Plates 8-10) because of its large size and impressive look, but after examining the architecture of the building, its edification appears to coincide with that of the smaller cookhouse. The NRHP evaluation form states that the square barn "has the rubble walls, rough quoining and stone jack arches of the little house. One might conclude, then, that James O'Hair (to whom these structures are attributed) had a firm sense of priorities: cramped quarters (perhaps considered temporary) for himself, but spacious, attractive quarters for the livestock from which he made his livelihood" (NRHP evaluation 1979).

Early Floyd County pioneer value systems which included a strong work ethic and a desire to favor the land and livestock over one's personal comforts, are clearly reflected in the architecture of the buildings on the O'Hair farm. In his History of Floyd County, author Clement L. Webster describes the "mission of the pioneer" to be one of bravery, hard work and independence. He writes that the pioneers "can be led, but never ruled. They are admirable citizens, but poor subjects.... Knowing no superior, they justly feel [sic] and act as sovereigns, and they form the strong nucleus of a free and independent state or country" (Webster 1897:29). The large barn and consequently modest home exemplify "the image of their former abode" and work ethic of the past. The architecture of their buildings reflects their value systems and their strong commitment to agriculture. "For years we notice their peculiarities in the arrangements of their farms, the shape of their houses and barns, and their walk and talk..." (Webster 1897:29).

### **Bloody Run**

John O'Hair and his family were Irish and in spite of being diligent workers, were apparently well-known for their hot-headed temperament. A private lane across the O'Hair property was apparently a well-travelled shortcut through the area (see 13FD62). Frequent use of the O'Hair family's private lane by outsiders led to conflict with one of the trespassing threshing crews. The 'Our Heritage' Bicentennial Review of Floyd County provides a detailed account of the brief and bloody battle between the O'Hair family and the Shannon and Lovejoy threshing crew from Riverton Township. The O'Hair family did not allow the threshing crew to cross their property and as a result, the threshing crew charged after members of the O'Hair family with blacksnake whips. The O'Hair brothers responded with "fists, neckyokes and singletrees. Blood flowed freely. Result: bruised heads and bodies, but the Shannons and Lovejoys did not cross the wheat" (Monroe and McCartney, eds. 1976:59; see also site description of 13FD62). This conflict resulted in the naming of Bloody Run Creek. According to an article in Iowa Farmer Today, legend states that:

The Irishmen supposedly became irate when a threshing crew decided to travel through the family's wheat field on its way to a job. A crew member clubbed one of the O'Hair sons, who was trying to stop the trespassers. The son raced back to the farm, told his family what happened, which inspired the male family members to attack the threshing crew. No one was killed that day... but the creek 'ran red with blood.' The O'Hairs got their point across and turned back the threshing crew.

(Williams 1984)

## **Elizabeth Strawn**

Jeremiah Eaton drowned July 16, 1858 in Shell Rock River near Rockford, leaving behind many debts and expenses for his family and making it necessary for Cyrus Eaton, administrator of the Jeremiah Eaton estate and brother of the deceased, to finally sell much of the real estate in order to pay expenses. According to the probate records of the Jeremiah Eaton estate on file in the Clerk's office in the Floyd County courthouse, John O'Hair and family were not able to make necessary payments on the farm. In the late 1850s, the O'Hair family was suffering from the Panic of 1857, "an economic crunch that caught a lot of farmers" (Ruralife 1984). At the time of Eaton's death, the O'Hair family still owed \$1,709.97 for the property and was forced to give it back to the Eaton estate (Deed Record Lands 1859-1861, v.I:38-43). The Sheriff of Floyd County, acting on behalf of the O'Hair family, returned the property (legal location: the S1/2; the S1/2 NW1/4; and the NW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 20) to the Eaton family on August 27, 1859 (Deed Record Lands 1859-1861, v.I:38-43).

The property was then placed in the hands of Cyrus Eaton, administrator of the Jeremiah Eaton estate, who had the land auctioned at a sheriff's sale on January 7, 1861. A publication confirmation from the St. Charles City Republican Intelligencer found in Jeremiah Eaton's probate records on file with the Floyd County Clerk states that a notice of sale was published in the weekly paper from December 13, 1860 until December 27 of the same year. Part of the notice reads:

[Jeremiah Eaton] owes debts to the amount of \$1,603.98, which must be paid forthwith, or that great loss and damage will result and accrue to said estate, and that the said widow and minor heirs need means and money for their necessary support, &c., and that the necessary amount cannot be made or realized from the remaining personal effects of said estate.... That the title to said lands and premises became and is now vested in said widow and heirs and administrator by operation of law by way of collecting a certain judgement against one John O'Hair and bidding off said lands and premises at sheriff sale...

(Jeremiah Eaton probate ca. 1858)

Elizabeth Strawn of Warren County, Indiana purchased the farm for \$4,000.00 on January 7, 1861 at the sheriff's auction, although the actual date of land transfer was March 4, 1861 (Deed Record Lands 1860-1864,

v.Q:23-24). Strawn purchased what amounted to approximately "510 acres [206.55 hectares ] more or less, known as the O'Hair or Eaton Farm," which consisted of the S1/2 and the S1/2 NW1/4 of Section 20; the NW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 28; the SW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 21; and the NW1/4 SW1/4 of Section 16 with the exception of 10 acres located in Section 16 (Deed Record Lands 1860-1864, v.Q:23-24). The legal location of this stretch of 510 acres of land appears consistently in the deed index up until and including A.W. Cook's purchase of the property in 1870.

Elizabeth Strawn was born in Ohio on February 5, 1810. She moved with her parents to Indiana at age 15 and soon married James Oxford in September of 1826. Elizabeth and James Oxford lived on a farm near Covington, Indiana with their two children. After her husband's death, Elizabeth married Enoch Strawn and they had one daughter named Mary Elizabeth (Ferguson).

After Enoch Strawn's death in 1854, Elizabeth moved to St. Charles Township with her daughter Mary and the two children from her marriage to Oxford, and later purchased the Cook Farm property at the 1861 auction. Elizabeth Strawn is credited with building the large elegant farmhouse (Figure 9; Plates 8-10) and the second part of the rectangular addition to the barn. Some secondary sources (including an article printed in the Charles City Press on August 15, 1967 which was basically copied verbatim from the 1882 History of Floyd County) state that the farmhouse and a barn addition were built by Strawn around 1855, but it is generally assumed that Strawn's structural additions to the farm took place in the early 1860s, since she wasn't living there until 1861.

Elizabeth Strawn carried on the wheat farming through the Civil War with hired help and the assistance of her family. According to an article published in the mid 1930s, "Warren Waller, 89... and the last surviving member of the family, is a nephew of the late Mrs. Strawn and recalls the many times he and his brother assisted with the threshing on the farm while his aunt lived there" ("Large Stone Buildings on Farm Near Charles City Built During Civil War" ca. 1934).

The architecture of the main house is very distinct from that of the earlier buildings on the farm, reflecting a change in style and values which came with the passing of time. The main house is more elegant and sophisticated in its construction and materials, suggesting the work of a talented mason. The NRHP evaluation form provides a detailed description of the house and its unusual architectural features:

The main house has a two-story front gable main block, with a one story dining/kitchen wing off the south side. The dressed limestone blocks are laid in a random ashlar pattern, and the corners of the house are quoined. Windows have broad, dressed stone lintels.... The doorway is framed by diamond-shaped sidelights and a transom with lozenge-shaped lights.... A



porch, with chamfered wooden posts, is recessed in the west side (front) of the kitchen wing. Another extends across the rear of this section.  
(NRHP evaluation 1979)

According to various sources, the most unusual features of the house are the recessed porch (Plate 11), diamond shaped panes of the sidelights, and the transom of the main entrance (Plates 14-15). The recessed porch "has precedent in older midwestern states," clearly reflecting the architecture of the mid to late 19th century (The Iowan 1964-65). The chamfered wooden posts were added by a later owner in the 1970s (Nancy Hutchins Fransdal, personal communication 1992).

In addition to the construction of the main house, Elizabeth Strawn is credited with the building of the final section of the rectangular addition to the barn since the masonry of that addition is similar to that of the main house. According to the NRHP evaluation form, this third section once housed cattle on the ground floor and had an open loft on the upper floor (NRHP evaluation 1979).

According to Harry Brenton, Charles City mayor from 1968-1969, an additional structure was built on the northwest side of the cookhouse which served as a bunkhouse (Plate 4). The bunkhouse was approximately 32 feet (11.03 meters) long and of an unknown width. It apparently housed 15 individuals, probably farmhands, who cultivated the farm using 15 teams (30 horses) working under the watchful eye of one overseer. At that time, the cookhouse was supposedly used as a living and dining area for the hired workers. No date of its construction and usage was available, but it could be assumed that the structure dates after the O'Hair occupation of the farmstead since the O'Hair family was living in the cookhouse (Harry Brenton, personal communication 1992). The site of the building's edification was examined briefly by BCA personnel in July, 1992, but no evidence of a foundation was discovered.

### **E. C. Chapin**

Elizabeth Strawn sold the farm (legal location: the S1/2, and the S1/2 NW1/4 of Section 20; the SW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 21; the NW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 28; the N1/2 NW1/4 S/W1/4 of Section 16; and the SE1/4 NW1/4 SW1/4 of Section 16) on March 3, 1866 for \$12,600 to E.C. Chapin (Deed Record Lands 1865-1866, v.G:432). Although this particular legal location is slightly different from the legal location of the Strawn purchase with regard to Section 16, it is safe to assume that the boundaries of the farm had not changed much when Chapin purchased the land from Strawn. The original deed of the Chapin purchase measures the property once again as "510 acres more or less" (Deed Record Lands 1865-1866, v.G:432).

E.C. Chapin was a wealthy, community-oriented gentleman from the area who was very active in organizations such as The Sportsman's Club, the Sabbath-School Association of Iowa, and a church building committee

whose action resulted in a new church built in the fall of 1867 which seated 350 people (Montag, ed. 1882:663, 703, 715). Chapin ran for representative on October 14, 1873 against Benjamin Darland, but lost by 186 votes (Montag, ed. 1882:367). Chapin purchased George Mitchell's interest in the Bank of Reiniger and Balch in October of 1866 and continued its business until 1873 when he sold his interest to the other partners.

In addition to his work with the bank and other organizations, Chapin was very instrumental in bringing the railroad through Charles City. Most of the market for what was once St. Charles Township (forerunner of Charles City) was in McGregor, which was about 100 miles from St. Charles. Unfortunately, "There were no roads or bridges and the journey to McGregor involved six to eight days, a rugged journey to market even a load of wheat. Railroads were eagerly sought..." (Monroe and McCartney, eds. 1976:50).

The people of St. Charles spent years attempting to acquire enough land to actually build a railroad reaching to the Mississippi using only profits from private land sales. Eventually the Iowa delegation pushed for a resolution for a land grant. It was finally passed by both houses in Congress and later signed by President Lincoln on May 12, 1864 (Monroe and McCartney, eds. 1976:50). However, in a session of the General Assembly of 1868, the land grants given by Congress for a proposed railroad heading west from McGregor through Charles City were coveted by the Forty-third Parallel Railroad Company:

These men were interested in securing a railroad from McGregor by way of Clermont, West Union, Bradford, Clarksville, etc. The West Union people contributed \$3,000, Clermont \$1,500, certain men in Clayton County \$1,000... all to influence legislation in favor of the West Union line. Lobby members by scores attended the session of the General Assembly from the beginning. To resist successfully this powerful West Union influence seemed like hoping against hope.

(Montag, ed. 1882:561)

E.C. Chapin and Milo Gilbert were elected in a Charles City town meeting to travel to Des Moines and represent Floyd County interests in the Assembly. Assisted by only a few others, Chapin and Gilbert were successful in deterring the West Union people, eventually securing a proposed railroad line through Charles City:

...and the result was that a law was passed giving the land grant to the McGregor and Sioux City Railroad Company, and requiring them to build the road within one mile of the county seats of the several counties through which the road was to pass: namely, New Hampton, Charles City, Mason City and Algona.

(Montag, ed. 1882:561)

About two years after the building of that railroad, the Chicago, Milwaukee, St Paul and Pacific Railroad was constructed, also serving Charles City (Monroe and McCartney, eds. 1976). On August 11, 1869, the first train of cars came to New Hampton at 5 pm. Finally, on September 1, 1869, the train reached the Charles City depot, a structure that was 120' (36.58 meters) long x 30' (9.144 meters) wide (B. F. Bowen and Co., Inc. 1917). Thanks in part to E.C. Chapin, the successful introduction of the railroad into Charles City provided farmers and agricultural business with great opportunities for access to a much larger market and made transportation faster, easier and more efficient.

The coming of the railroad caused many farmers to begin large-scale wheat farming. According to the history compiled during the Phase I investigation of the US 18/218 highway improvement corridor, much of the land in the county is "generally level or gently rolling, with deep, warm, fertile soils that are rich in organic matter and nitrogen," making Floyd County very well suited to grain production. (Roberts, et al. 1992:58).

### **A. W. Cook**

According to a newspaper article written around 1934, E.C. Chapin traded the farm to Arnold W. Cook in 1870 for a store in Springfield, Illinois ("Large Stone Buildings on Farm Near Charles City Built During Civil War" ca. 1934). That newspaper article is the only source mentioning anything about a store that was traded. Whether the store was part of the deal or not, the deed record of the land sale states that A.W. Cook paid \$21,184.80 for the farm (legal location: the S1/2 of Section 20; a portion of the S1/2 NW1/4 of Section 20; the SW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 21; the NW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 28; the N1/2 NW1/4 SW1/4 of Section 16; and the SE1/4 NW1/4 SW1/4 of Section 16). According to the deed for the property, this sale encompassed a total of 529 and 62/100 acres (214.25 hectares) (Deed Record Lands v.5:119).

The size of the farm was actually about 30 acres (12.15 hectares) larger than the sale from Chapin to Cook suggests, and it is certain that Cook purchased adjacent land which also became part of the official "Cook Farm." According to the 1895 and 1913 township plats, the Cook Farm comprised at least 600 acres (243 hectares) of agricultural land. At the time of Cook's death, the land was subdivided into smaller farms and passed on to his children (Cook probate ca. 1887).

### **A.W. COOK'S LIFE AND WORK**

Arnold W. Cook was born in Boston, Massachusetts on November 11, 1811. After travelling and living in various cities, he settled in Lincoln County, Kentucky where he married Martha S. Owsley. Cook began farming and raising livestock while still in Kentucky until the family moved to Sangamon County, Illinois. After briefly continuing with the

stock business and farming in Illinois, Cook, his wife and their four children "sold out and moved to Floyd County, Iowa, where he purchased a beautiful stock farm on Cedar Creek," establishing "one of the finest stock and brood farms in Northern Iowa" (Montag, ed. 1882:1013). A.W. Cook quickly made a name for himself based in part on his introduction of the first Norman Percheron horses to the region in 1870 (Montag 1882:1013). He also raised Shorthorn cattle and grain on "Spring Valley Farm."

In addition to being an outstanding farmer, A. W. Cook was an upstanding citizen of Charles City. Both Cook and his wife, Martha were instrumental in the organization and activities of the Charles City Patrons of Husbandry, No. 280 which lasted from March 6, 1872 until some time in 1877 (Montag, ed. 1882:530). In 1882, Cook was also one of the directors for the 4th annual fair in Charles City (Montag, ed. 1882:521). Like E. C. Chapin, Cook was very active in his community, running for representative against O. H. Lyon in 1877. Cook was, however, defeated by a large margin (Montag, ed. 1882:369). After the death of President Garfield, Cook gave a short address to the people of Charles City in remembrance of the late President (Montag, ed. 1882:720).

Cook was very active in the community life of Charles City, but he was most well-known for the work he did on his "Spring Valley Farm", importing and raising Norman Percheron horses. In the early 1870s, he was credited for having the first Percheron ever foaled in Iowa (Ruralife 1984). According to the 1882 History of Floyd County, Iowa:

[Cook] was the first to introduce into the State of Iowa the Norman Percheron stock in 1870, and in 1874 he made a trip to France, and imported some of the finest ever brought to America, and has continued each year to renew the stock. In 1882 he imported twenty head, sixteen stallions and four mares, all thorough bred [sic], and now has some seventy-five on his farm, and also has forty head of fine thoroughbred short-horn cattle, which he carefully breeds, and is ready to supply at any time the same to parties wishing good stock.

(Montag, ed. 1882:1013)

Since he traveled to Europe just about every year beginning in the early 1870s to renew his stock of horses, Cook must have experienced some success with his venture. The late Dave Hutchins, a later owner of the Cook Farm, had in his collection of memorabilia, a number of posters proclaiming "The Percheron is what farmed America." He had others from the Horse Association of America which "blamed low grain prices on surplus caused by the demise of the horse" (Ruralife 1984). Cook's 1887 obituary refers to the great impact his work with the importation of horses had on Floyd and surrounding counties:

Believing that the stock of this section should be improved, he made repeated voyages to France and England, and imported many fine horses, whose impress can be seen to-day [sic] in the vastly improved character of the horses in this and adjoining counties.

(Charles City Intelligencer 1887)

Cook frequently advertised his livestock in various local newspapers and magazines (Figures 12, 13). On April 3, 1879, Cook advertised in the Charles City Intelligencer, praising two of his horses that he wished to lend out for service: "Trocadero," a four year old Percheron imported from France, and "Impetuous," a Cleveland Bay imported from Yorkshire, England. Cook writes that "In offering the services of the above horses to the farmers of Floyd County, I am, in my opinion, offering the two best horses that were ever in my stables" (Charles City Intelligencer 1879). Cook was clearly successful and proud of his work with his livestock. He provided excellent horses to the people of Floyd County, and had shrewd business sense. He charged a \$15 fee to insure the horses, stating that "Any one parting with the mare before her foaling time will be held responsible for the insurance money" (Charles City Intelligencer 1879).

#### A.W. COOK AND THE IOWA HORSE-BREEDING INDUSTRY

The period from the 1840s to the 1860s witnessed the beginnings of a revolution in American agriculture characterized by the invention and use of labor-saving farm machinery. In Iowa, where land was abundant but labor scarce, the demand for mechanical reapers, threshers, mowers, and other horse-powered implements stimulated the growth of draft animal breeding in the decades after the Civil War. "The general use of machinery created a steady and increasing demand for draft horses possessing both strength and alertness," writes Ross in his agricultural history of the state. "The native Morgan strains, with all their admirable qualities, were in general too light for the demands of cultivating and harvesting machines and for the replacement of the slow ox in hailing. With no satisfactory native draft horses available, resort was had to the homes of the standard Old World breeds" (Ross 1951:76).

Horse breeding became a major industry in Iowa and the Middle West during the late-19th century. The first Clydesdales and Percherons were shown at the Minnesota State Fair in 1870, but not in considerable numbers until 1875 (Jarchow 1949:200). Thoroughbred horses begin to appear in the annual reports of the Iowa State Agricultural Society in the 1860s and by the 1880s the State of Iowa was gripped by a horse-raising "craze" (see Ross 1951:75-76). It is clearly evident that Floyd County stockmen were prominent among the state's horse breeders. The county agricultural society's annual Report for 1885, for example, noted "a decided improvement in work horses," especially Percherons, Clydesdales, and Englishshires, but observed that "the breeding of road and carriage horses [is] neglected" (ISAS 1886:361). The following year, the society reported that

the price of draft horses from Floyd County ranged between \$125 and \$175 a head (ISAS 1887:343).

According to the old county history, Cook "was the first to introduce into the State of Iowa the Norman Percheron stock in 1870" (Montag, ed. 1882:1013; cf. Ross 1951:76). In his report for the year 1869, the secretary of the county agricultural society noted that "this year, a thoroughbred Norman stallion and a pair of mares were brought in, at an expense of \$4,000.00" (ISAS 1870:243), but does not mention Cook. The 1882 county history states that after 1874 Cook made annual trips to France to purchase breeding stock and soon acquired a herd of seventy-five head which formed the basis of his livestock enterprise (Montag, ed. 1882:1013). Probate records and newspaper items show that Cook's investment in horse breeding was indeed significant, although a scan of the annual county agricultural society reports fails to turn up any reference to Cook's exhibiting Percherons (Figures 12-13).

The Norman Percheron was the most popular breed of large draft horse raised in Iowa. As the name suggests, the breed originated in Normandy, in the district of La Perche, and is the modern direct descendant of the medieval "great horse" bred to carry the armored knights of the crusader era. The Norman was a bulky animal, averaging sixteen hands in height and a ton in weight, but was very active and nimble and therefore excellent for draft purposes. On farms, they were the 19th century equivalent of the John Deere tractor, specializing in hauling wagons and in providing the power for driving reapers, threshers, and other machinery. Besides the market for farm animals, Iowa horse breeders exported large numbers of Percherons to urban areas, where they were harnessed to horsecars and omnibuses, forerunners of the modern streetcars. Percherons were also in great demand for drayage and freight hauling. Draft horses were a mainstay of Middle Western farm operations until the 1940s and continued to be useful to the urban transportation market did not dry up until well after the turn of the century.

#### A.W. COOK'S LATER YEARS

Business was certainly booming at the Cook Farm by 1882. In that year alone, "Cook imported 20 head of horses, 16 stallions and four mares, and 40 head of purebred Shorthorn cattle" ("Large Stone Buildings on Farm Near Charles City Built During Civil War" ca. 1934). According to many sources, Cook was quite famous for the tremendous work he did on his "Spring Valley Stock Farm," building up "the finest stock and brood farm in this section of the country" ("Large Stone Buildings on Farm Near Charles City Built During Civil War" ca. 1934).

Cook continued in his work with the horses for many years, always insisting that he provided the best livestock for Floyd County. An advertisement running from October 1, 1886 until November 26, 1886 in a farm journal entitled The Iowa Homestead reached people all over the state

of Iowa (Figure 12). Published in Des Moines, the journal was an excellent source of agricultural information for farmers. By 1886, Cook was evidently very well-established as a farmer and as a respected citizen of Floyd County. In this advertisement, Cook is offering to sell 12 stallions and 8 mares, all Percheron, that he had imported to the U.S. on September 9, 1886. In addition, Cook advertises some Shorthorn heifers and pure scotch collie pups. He also advertises Spring Valley Farm itself, almost as an afterthought:

I would also sell Spring Valley Farm, surely one of the best stock and grain farms in Iowa. Improvements cost more than half the price I ask for the farm. Send for description.

(A.W. Cook probate ca. 1887)

The September 9, 1886 trip to Europe was termed by A.W. Cook as his "farewell voyage," according to his obituary in the Charles City Intelligencer, appearing on February 16, 1887. He had been ill months before his death and it is likely that he was attempting to sell some of his livestock and the farm itself before he died. Although the above notice about the farm in the Homestead appears as somewhat of an afterthought, portions of a much more complete advertisement for the farm appeared as well. It is unclear where the complete notice appeared; parts of it were found on the back of receipts while examining Cook's probate records in the Clerk's Office in the Floyd County courthouse. Part of the notice reads:

...superior advantages of healthful climate, good society, elegant soil and purest water, make this a most desirable location for a home and business. I have built up a grand trade here, which only my advanced age of more than three-score-and-ten, and failing strength, induce me to give up. I am making a specialty of the raising, importation and handling of draft horses, and my stock speaks for itself in most of the states and territories of the great Northwest. I have personally made eight direct importations from France of Norman-Percheron horses, and my business is in a most desirable shape for a man of enterprise and energy to succeed to. The farm is well stocked for future operations having on its pasture forty Norman-Percheron brood mares... six imported Norman-Percheron stallions; a small herd of short-horn cattle, hogs, fowls, etc.... Price \$45.00 per acre, terms liberal.

(A.W. Cook probate ca. 1887)

Apparently, A.W. Cook had every intention of selling the entire farm before he died. He may have had a change of heart about two weeks before his death, however, because the farm was never sold. The entire acreage of Spring Valley Farm was divided among his children: Jesse Cook, William Cook, Grace Cook and Mary (Mollie) Cook Bennett. His wife, Martha Cook was administrator of his will and was instructed by Cook to use whatever



personal assets he had to cover his debts, selling off real estate as a last resort. The will, signed and dated January 29, 1887, reads:

...I hereby authorize my said Executrix to sell and dispose of such of my estate as may in her judgement be advisable, to raise sufficient means to pay off my debts and the legacies named in this will, directing that she do not resort to real estate until the personal is first exhausted.

(A.W. Cook probate ca. 1887)

Cook still had at least 38 horses on the farm at the time of his death, six of which were sold to other people (A.W. Cook probate ca. 1887).

It is unclear exactly where the Cook children finally settled. According to Martha Cook's obituary, Grace Cook Brown resided on the farm with her husband, Mary Cook Bennett was living in Florida, Jesse Cook was somewhere near Charles City, and William Cook was living in Webster City in 1899, at the time of their mother's death (Charles City Intelligencer 1899). According to an article published in the mid 1930s, "Will was the first to introduce in the state of Iowa, one of the largest and best of musical organizations. He is a writer and musician himself" ("Large Stone Buildings on Farm Near Charles City Built During Civil War" ca. 1934).

Regardless of where the Cook heirs were actually living, each son and daughter of A.W. Cook received his or her own portion of the property at the time of A.W. Cook's death. For the first time in its history, the Cook Farm was divided among the survivors of the deceased owner of the property. After Cook's death, it becomes increasingly difficult to say which of the children actually lived on the farm and when. According to the obituary of Martha Cook, she and their daughter Grace Cook Brown and family were living on the farm at the time of Mrs. Cook's death in 1899 (Charles City Intelligencer 1899).

Spring Valley Farm was not sold immediately after Cook's death and, although the land was divided among the children, supposedly remained in the Cook family for many years. After extensive deed examination in the Recorder's Office of the Floyd County Courthouse, it was concluded that the property did not remain with the Cook heirs for very long, however. The farm changed hands many times between 1887 when Cook died and 1925 when Horace B. Olds inherited the property from his parents.

### **Horace B. and Horace James Olds**

Many people owned the property between the time of Cook's death in 1887 and 1925, when Horace B. Olds inherited the property from his parents. None of the owners in that period of time seemed to hold the land for longer than about 5 years, and none of those owners made very

significant contributions to the farmstead itself, nor to the agricultural history of Floyd County in general. Since the property changed hands so many times, tracing its ownership without the aid of the abstract became an exercise in futility.

The farm was reduced to about half of its 600 acre (243 hectares) size around the time of Cook's ownership, probably due to the settling of Cook's estate and the property division among Cook's wife and children. Horace B. Olds inherited about "200 acres [81 hectares] more or less" which included the NW1/4 NW1/4; the NE1/4NW1/4; the N1/2; and the N1/2 S1/2 , all of Section 20 (Deed Record Lands 1930-1934, v. 72:146).

Horace Baldwin Olds was the first after the Cook family to not only acquire the property, but continue to own it for a significant period of time. Olds "purchased" a 200 acre (81 hectares) section of the farm, including the limestone buildings, from his parents for "\$1 and other valuable considerations" in 1925 (Deed Record Lands 1930-1934, v.72:146). The dollar sale was historically used in quick land deals between relatives or to settle debts. It was more efficient than to arrange to have the property appraised for its actual value.

Although Horace B. Olds owned the property, it is doubtful that he ever lived there, or if he did, it was not for very long. One source refers to Myron Russel as tenant of the place in the mid 1930s, and farmer Ray Franke lived and worked on the farm with his family from 1960-1975 ("Large Stone Buildings on Farm Near Charles City Built During Civil War" ca. 1934).

Horace B. Olds was born in Charles City in 1902 and was well-known in the community for his involvement in local organizations. At the time of his death in September of 1971, Olds was President of Citizens National Bank and active in the Elks, Lions, and Charles City Country Club (Charles City Press 1971). At the time of Horace B. Olds' death, the property was divided among the Olds heirs and the farmstead was left under the ownership of Horace James "Jim" Olds.

Horace B. Olds died on September 7, 1971, leaving a sizable inheritance for his family which included many lucrative stocks and properties. His two daughters, Frances Ann Beckman and Mary Ellen Poe, immediately sold their property to their brother Jim Olds who apparently continued to rent the property to the Franke family until they retired in the fall of 1975. Jim Olds finally sold the land and buildings to Gary Grant of Floyd County, on July 23, 1976 (Transfer Record Lands 1983, v.5:204).

Gary Grant only owned the entire property for four days. Grant chose to farm most of the land, but elected not to live in the house, selling it and the rest of the buildings immediately to the Hutchins family. On July 27, 1976, Dave and Judy Hutchins of Waterloo purchased about 100 acres (40.5 hectares) of the property from Grant which included all of the

buildings (Transfer Record Lands 1983, v.5:204). The Hutchins family did not move in immediately, so the house at least remained vacant from 1975 when the Franke family left until 1977 when the Hutchins family finally moved in. Nancy Hutchins Fransdal, daughter of Dave and Judy Hutchins, remembers the 1976 state of disrepair and the terrible condition of the house after two years of being inhabited by nothing but squirrels and various other creatures (Nancy Hutchins Fransdal, personal communication 1992).

### **Dave and Judy Hutchins**

The last line of A.W. Cook's obituary states "Now that he is in his grave, we may well ask, 'Who can take his place, and continue his good work?'"(Charles City Intelligencer 1887). Surprisingly, just under 100 years later, that question was answered. The most significant work done on the farm is the result of the efforts of Dave and Judy Hutchins who purchased what amounted to about 100 acres (40.5 hectares) of the farm in 1976. About 60 acres (24.3 hectares) of their land was tillable; the rest was pasture land and river area (Williams 1984).

The couple, now deceased, have been interviewed by various newspapers and magazines about the history of the farmstead. As soon as they purchased the farm, they began to restore it and stock it once again with Percheron horses and Shorthorn cattle, re-naming it "Spring Valley Stock Farm" as A.W. Cook had called it. They incorporated the farm on December 21, 1978, naming the business Yesterfarm, Inc. (Transfer Record Lands 1983, v. 5:204).

According to Nancy Hutchins Fransdal, the restoration effort was a major long-term family project. Hutchins sold the family's farm in Waterloo and his share of a Waterloo business in order to purchase the property, sinking not only his pocketbook, but his entire "heart and soul" into the restoration (Nancy Hutchins Fransdal, personal communication 1992). Dave and Judy Hutchins spent many years in painstaking restoration work using only their own finances for the endeavor.

One of the first steps in the restoration effort was to jack up the house which caused the immediate crumbling of the outside chimney. The whole family then took sledgehammers to some of the walls since most were in desperate need of rebuilding. The Hutchins family also "put a new roof on the house, insulated the dwelling, replastered throughout the house, re-wired it and put in new plumbing throughout the house. They have added a wood burning furnace to the present gas furnace, painted, papered, sanded and re-finished..." (Charles City Press 1978). Fransdal gave the authors a tour of the property in July, 1992 and pointed out some of the other improvements that the family had done.

A great deal of effort and hard work "yielded honey-colored pine floors in the parlor and sitting room on the first floor. The living room and

dining room floor is alternating strips of blonde oak and dark walnut" (Plates 12-13), according to a 1979 Waterloo Courier newspaper article (Hagert 1979). The door frames throughout the house were covered with "about 15 layers of paint" and needed to be stripped, repainted and reinstalled.

The former kitchen is now a dining room and the present kitchen is located in what was once a pantry. There were stairs leading from the upstairs servants' quarters to the former kitchen, but when the Hutchins family acquired the place, the stairs had been burned and were no longer usable. Upstairs, Hutchins replaced the stairs with an expanded bathroom and downstairs, in what is now the dining room, he built a utility closet (Nancy Hutchins Fransdal, personal communication 1992). The diamond shaped windows and transom of the main entrance remain intact.

The upper floor of the house was completely redone as the Hutchins family arranged and redecorated upstairs bedrooms. They pulled off the linoleum floors expecting to find beautiful wood floors like they had downstairs, but unfortunately only discovered subflooring which they later replaced with new wood floors. The front bedroom, probably the former master bedroom of the house, was made smaller by converting a closet into part of the upstairs hallway. The chimney that was destroyed when the house was jacked up was reconstructed inside the house to provide added heat. The servants' quarters were once located on the east end of the upper floor and consisted of four small bedrooms and a bathroom. Hutchins added two dormer windows and changed the four small servant rooms into a giant master bedroom (Nancy Hutchins Fransdal, personal communication 1992).

Barn improvements were also implemented by the Hutchins family. Since Hutchins was planning on raising livestock, a part of the barn that was completely destroyed due to time and neglect was entirely rebuilt (Nancy Hutchins Fransdal, personal communication 1992). A new cupola was added to the square portion of the barn in hopes of one day crowning it with a horse weathervane (Charles City Press 1978).

Dave and Judy Hutchins also added railings to the porches and filled the house with antiques, returning it after years of hard work to its 19th century look. Dave and Judy Hutchins were very interested in the farm's history and deeply concerned with its preservation. Little by little, Hutchins researched the farm's former inhabitants, continuing to fill the farmhouse with antiques and the barn with Percheron horses and Shorthorn cattle, almost returning the farmstead to its original state and purpose.

Judy Hutchins died in 1986 and Dave Hutchins began selling most of the antiques by 1987. Hutchins remarried in 1989, moved off the farm, and began renting the property. John and Janet Fink, who were married in the house, are the current renters and caretakers of the property.

## Ghosts and Legends

The Hutchins family's two years of restoration effort to bring back the farm's history and make it live again revealed the legends of Ambrose Story, Bloody Run and the rumor of an underground passage from the main house to the barn. It was once thought that the passageway indicated that the farm was part of the underground railroad during the antebellum period when Elizabeth Strawn occupied the property. Jim Franke, son of Ray Franke who was a tenant on the farm from 1960-1975, recalls the patched wall in the basement facing the barn and the patched window in the barn facing the house (Plates 17-18) as evidence of a tunnel. The Franke family, along with other residents of Charles City, accept the underground railroad legend as quite factual. Dave Hutchins, however, stated that the underground railroad idea was probably just a story:

[The Hutchins] have found no evidence of such a tunnel. They dug up the yard to install new drains and septic tank and disturbed [sic] all corners of the basement in their plumbing and re-wiring projects and found no tunnel entrance, but they did find a closed up and boxed fireplace in the basement of the house which they think might have instigated this legend.

(Fullard 1978)

There is another tradition that states that "this barn was a stopping place for the stage coaches of early days" (The Iowan 1964-65). This is quite possible considering that there is evidence of a stagecoach road remnant passing near the property. A confirmation of the farm as a stagecoach stop would be beneficial in addressing the legend of the underground railroad. It would have been uncommon to have two stagecoach stops within two miles of each other, one at the farm and one in Charles City. The stop at the farm would beg explanation since there was already a stop in Charles City, clearly causing more serious speculation about the farm's underground railroad involvement (Wayne Pankow, personal communication 1992). While the location of a stagecoach stop in the large barn would make the logical underground shuffling from the barn basement to the basement of the house relatively easy, the attention that would have been drawn to the placement of two stagecoach stops so closely together would draw unwanted attention to a covert underground railroad operation.

During a tour of the Cook Farm in July, 1992, Nancy Hutchins Fransdal stated that the parlor was the place where a former inhabitant of the farm passed away. She was unsure of who it was, but there is a strong possibility that A. W. Cook died there, in his own home. According to his obituary, Cook suffered from a long illness and was confined to his home days before his death: "He has been in poor health for several months, but it is only lately that he has been confined to the house" (Charles City Intelligencer 1887). Fransdal stated that the parlor was arranged as a sick room of sorts for the dying man. Regardless of whether or not Cook was the

sick man to whom she was referring, "[Cook's] funeral took place at his late residence," according to his obituary (Charles City Intelligencer 1887).

The stone barn is also rumored to have been the site of a local death. Some sources, most of them by personal communication, indicate that there was a suicidal hanging or a lynching in the barn ca. 1904 (Wayne Pankow, personal communication 1992). This rumor is, like the others, difficult to substantiate considering the lack of a concrete date for the occurrence and a lack of well-documented, written sources of information.

## **Conclusions**

The Cook Farm has a very long and colorful history. It is not only architecturally, but historically interesting with respect to its early inhabitants and the roles they played in helping to shape the region. The former inhabitants of the Cook Farm were significant not simply because they lived on the farm, but because of their interest in and concern for Charles City, Floyd County, and the State of Iowa.

The contributors to the history of the property were all very notable people. Ambrose Story, the probable first settler in Floyd County lived on what eventually became the Cook Farm property. The O'Hair family made huge architectural contributions to the farm and were crucial to the notorious Bloody Run incident. E. C. Chapin helped bring the railroad through the area and was an active citizen in the development of Floyd County. Most importantly, A. W. Cook's work with livestock and, more specifically, imported Norman Percheron horses and Shorthorn cattle, was very significant to the community, providing many early farmers with excellent animals for loan or purchase. Horace Olds and family held the land for years, farming the land and renting the buildings up until just after Horace B. Olds' death in 1971.

The ghosts and legends keep the farmstead historically alive to the people of Charles City and to the descendants of those who once lived at the Cook Farm. Bloody Run, the underground railroad, the stagecoach stopping place, and the hanging/lynching rumor stand to represent not only possible incidents that occurred there, but continue to exist and are perpetuated by descendants because they are an integral part of a bygone era and culture. These legends are important elements in the history of the farm and of the time period during which the farm thrived.

The diligent work by the Hutchins family has helped to finally return the Cook Farm to its original 19th century look and feel. Since the 1975 purchase of the property by the Hutchins family, the Cook Farm has been improved and historically respected. All of the people who have rented the buildings from the heirs of Dave and Judy Hutchins have "fallen in love with the place" and supported the farm with their time and energy (Nancy Hutchins Fransdal, personal communication 1992).

## EVALUATION OF THE COOK FARM AS AN HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

Historic farmsteads are vernacular landscapes composed of a variety of features, including topography, vegetation, buildings, structures, and the spatial relationships between the different features (see Alanen 1989; Hart 1983; Jackson 1984; Lowenthal 1968; Melnick 1980; Melnick, et al. 1984; Soike 1989; Stilgoe 1982; Trewartha 1948; Vogel 1991). National Register Bulletin Number 30, Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes, defines a rural historic landscape as a geographical area that has been used, shaped, or modified over time by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of historic buildings, vegetation, roads and waterways, and natural features (McClelland, et al. 1989:1-2ff.). Although some historic farmsteads are noteworthy primarily because of the architectural significance of their component buildings, others may be of interest because of their archeological research value or because they document important aspects of cultural geography (see, e.g., Hart 1972, 1983). Recognition of the landscape history value of farmsteads has a number of implications for cultural resource surveys, not the least of which is the need to consider individual farms as potential historic districts, rather than simply as houses with accessory buildings.

The Cook farmhouse, barns, and outbuildings probably rank among the most compelling vestiges of the agricultural history of Iowa. The large limestone buildings, constructed between ca. 1856 and 1862, represent a set of unique architectural landmarks and are an extraordinary visual feature of the area.

Keeping in mind the context of the Cook Farm's history, in order for the outlying agricultural croplands, woodlands, and pastures associated with the historic Cook Farm to be significant, the landscape value of the farmlands would have to be assessed in terms of the geographic aspect of the entire 600-acre (243 hectares) property, i.e., the composite effect of modifications of the natural environment affected by the farm's historic users. Farm fields physically comprise a specific type of vernacular or cultural landscape, one that is shaped by changing patterns of historical and natural processes.

The U.S. rectangular survey, which organizes land into six-by-six mile townships subdivided into thirty-six sections of one square mile each, has had a profound impact on the post-settlement landscape of the St. Charles Township area, indeed, of the entire Midwest (see Johnson 1976). Elsewhere in Floyd County, the checkerboard effect is particularly striking from the air but is also discernable from ground level, where the geometry of the typical farmstead is dominated by rectangular forms, e.g. fence rows, enclosing fields, the intersections of farm lanes with public roadways, the arrangement of farmhouses and outbuildings.

In the context of historic land use, the historic rectangular field patterns on the Cook Farm may represent cultural relicts worthy of preservation. However, documentation of the farm's historic configuration consists almost entirely of published plat maps drawn at scales which do not permit differentiation between fields on any given parcel of land (see, e.g. Union Publishing Company 1895; Anderson Publishing Company 1913). It is also documented that the original Cook Farm was broken up following A. W. Cook's death in 1887; this redistribution of lands led to the creation of new farmsteads. On the basis of informant interviews and personal observation, it would appear that field patterns and uses have changed substantially over time, and that the present configuration of the farmstead and fields bears only the slightest resemblance to that of the late-1800s farm. Simply put, the outlying fields of the Cook Farm do not contain visual characteristics indicative of their use during the late-19th century.

Spatial relationships between the Cook Farm buildings and historically related sites is critical to evaluating the farm's significance as an historic landscape. Information provided by the current owners holds that the stone used in constructing the house and outbuildings was quarried at a site east of the farmstead along the river. Quarry sites may be cultural landforms, and this particular limestone quarry may be significant because of its association with the Cook Farm, but the landscape history linkage between the stone buildings and the quarry is tenuous at best. The landscape history connection between the Cook Farm and archeological evidence of previous Euro-American occupations is also difficult to discern.

Finally, both native and introduced plants are important aspects of the material culture of Iowa agriculture, and vegetation is often an important indicator of the historical development of an individual farmstead, as well as part of the living historic fabric of the property. Typical historic vegetation features associated with Iowa farmsteads include woodlots, gardens, orchards, windbreaks, hedgerows, yard shade trees -- and cultivated fields. Evaluating integrity of the existing vegetation on the Cook Farm is extremely problematic, given the lack of documentation and the fact that the farmscape has evolved over a long period of time.

In conclusion, the Cook Farm is not considered eligible for nomination to the National Register as an historic landscape because the rural landscape that characterized the property during the period of its significance (ca. 1850s-1880s) is no longer present. While the cluster of stone buildings are architecturally significant, the general character and feeling of the outlying farmlands which formerly comprised the Cook Farm has been substantially altered by post-ca. 1890 trends in land use. This evaluation is based on the condition of the lands in question and on the farm's historic context.



## **RESULTS OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE INVESTIGATIONS**

### **Introduction**

A Phase I cultural resource investigation of the proposed U.S. Highway 18/218 highway improvement corridor was conducted between July 1 and November 1, 1991. Historic archeological sites 13FD62, 13FD63, 13FD64, and 13FD69 were among those encountered during the initial investigation. Additional Phase II investigations of these four sites in the form of supplemental archival research and/or field evaluations were conducted between June 8 and June 19, 1992. The following is a summation of the archival research and field evaluations of each of the sites.

### **Site 13FD62**

#### **DESCRIPTION**

This site is located in the N1/2, SW1/4, SE1/4 of Section 20, T95N, R15W, St. Charles Township, Floyd County, Iowa (Figure 2). The site consists of a 3 m (9.84 feet) wide by approximately 260 m (853.0 feet) long depression situated on a loess mantled upland shoulder and drainage sideslope (Plates 19, 20). This feature represents the remains of a stagecoach trail. The elevation of the site is between 880-1,010 feet NGVD. The site will be impacted by the proposed U.S. 18/218 highway improvement corridor. The majority of the trail remnant is covered by mixed grasses (<5-15% surface visibility); however, the eastern terminus of the site is located within secondary growth deciduous trees and undergrowth (<5% surface visibility). The site encompasses an area of approximately 0.19 acres, or 0.08 hectares.

The soils mapped at the site location include Winneshiek loam (moderately deep, 2-5% slopes) and Sogn loam (14-40% slopes). Winneshiek soils are well-drained soils found on uplands, while Sogn soils are somewhat excessively drained soils located on uplands and terrace escarpments (Voy and Highland 1975:57, 65).

#### **RESULTS OF PHASE I AND PHASE II INVESTIGATIONS**

Site 13FD62 was located during the Phase I investigation through an interview with local landowner Mrs. Gladys Gregg, and a follow-up pedestrian survey. Mrs. Gregg indicated that there was a "stagecoach trail" on her property and accompanied BCA personnel to the location. Excavations with a 3.2 cm soil probe within the site area revealed a churned and mottled A and AB soil horizon over much of the feature, while the remainder of the site was mantled by approximately 20 cm of plowzone over a B soil horizon. This site appears to represent a small remnant of a mid-to late-19th century stagecoach line. The remnant which constitutes site 13FD62 has been partially impacted by the construction of the Gregg home.

In an interview with Mr. Dale Warrington, President of the Floyd County Historical Society, Mr. Warrington indicated that the site was a remnant of the "river road" stagecoach line which ran from Janesville, the jumping off point for the railroad at the time, to Charles City. An archival search provided a hand drawn map showing the location of stagecoach lines in Iowa (Figure 14; Monroe and McCartney, eds. 1976:63). While this map is somewhat general in its placement of the stagecoach lines, it does show a line running from Janesville, through Waverly, and into Charles City. It is unknown exactly when the stagecoach line was established; however, archival records indicate that by 1876 the Independence and State Line Road was extended to include the old river road (Floyd County Road Records n.d.:2:214). The Independence and State Line Road, established in November, 1854, was the first public road in Floyd County. This road originally extended from the Freeman (now Charles City) Post Office, through Floyd and on to Minnesota (Monroe and McCartney, eds. 1976). An 1875 plat of Floyd County is the earliest available map showing a road through the present project area (Andreas 1875; Figure 4). An 1879 map of a proposed road realignment along the Independence and State Line Road in the S1/2, SE1/4 of Section 20, T95N, R15W may illustrate a portion of the road preserved as archeological site 13FD62 (Floyd County Road Records n.d.:2:255; Figure 15).

The river road appears to have followed an earlier Indian trail shown on 1848-1849 General Land Office plats of the area (Figure 3). It is likely that early Euro-American settlers to the area utilized the Indian trail rather than enduring the hardship of blazing their own. By 1855, it appears that the portion of the trail in Section 20, T95N, R15W may have been used at that time as a private farm lane by John O'Hair and his family, owners of the surrounding property later known as the Cook Farm. Persistent use of the trail by outsiders may have resulted in conflict in 1858. In 1858, John O'Hair protested when the Shannon and Lovejoy threshing crew from Riverton Township crossed his property. "Members of the threshing crew struck down members of the O'Hair family with blacksnake whips. An alarm was given to other O'Hair brothers who responded with fists, neckyokes and singletrees. Blood flowed freely." (Monroe and McCartney, eds. 1976:59). No one was killed in the skirmish, but the Shannons and Lovejoys did not cross the O'Hair property again. The lane was eventually incorporated as part of the Independence and State Line Road.

The Cedar Falls & Minnesota Railroad proposed the construction of a railroad grade by 1885 adjacent to what had been the old river road (Warner and Foote 1885); however, this plan never came to fruition. In 1913, the State Line and Independence Road was established as U.S. Highway 218/"Red Ball Route", and in 1933 the highway was paved.

## ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

No cultural material was found in association with 13FD62.

## EVALUATION

Site 13FD62 consists of a remnant of the "river road" stagecoach line. The original stagecoach line was established sometime after November, 1854. By 1876, the original road was incorporated as part of the Independence and State Line Road. Although 13FD62 may have been directly or indirectly related to the Cook Farm property in terms of its proximity to the farmstead, which may have also functioned as a stagecoach stop, and its possible role in the skirmish at Bloody Run, it is not considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP. Site 13FD62 represents only a small remnant of the historic stagecoach line; the remainder of the original road has been impacted by construction of U.S. Highway 218. The site itself has been partially impacted by the construction of the Gregg home. As an archeological site, this remnant has a low potential to yield significant data beyond the recording of its location. In view of these reasons, 13FD62 is not considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP; no further work is recommended.

### **Sites 13FD63 and 13FD69**

#### DESCRIPTION

Sites 13FD63 and 13FD69 are described together because both sites represent limestone quarries, of which little archival information could be found. Site 13FD63 is located in the NE1/4, NE1/4, SW1/4, SE1/4 of Section 20, T95N, R15W, St. Charles Township, Floyd County, Iowa (Figure 2). This quarry is located on a bluff on the north edge of Bloody Run, a third order intermittent drainage which flows southwest to northeast through the project area. The elevation of 13FD63 is between 980 and 1,000 feet NGVD. The site will not be directly impacted by the proposed U.S. 18/218 highway improvement corridor. The floor of the site area is overgrown by secondary growth deciduous trees and underbrush, providing poor surface visibility (20%) (Plate 21). The walls of the quarry offer excellent surface visibility (100%). The quarry encompasses an area approximately 90 m (295.28 feet) east-west by 30 m (98.43 feet) north-south, or 0.67 acres (0.27 hectares).

Site 13FD69 is located in the NW1/4, NE1/4, NW1/4 of Section 20, T95N, R15W, St. Charles Township, Floyd County, Iowa (Figure 2). This quarry is located on a bluff overlooking the west bank of the Cedar River. The elevation of 13FD69 is between 1,000 and 1,010 feet NGVD. Approximately the western one-third of this quarry will be impacted by the proposed U.S. 18/218 highway improvement corridor. This quarry is currently being used as a landfill for construction debris by Floyd County and a gunnery range by the Charles City Police Department, therefore much of the original quarry surface is obscured (Plates 22, 23). The quarry encompasses an area approximately 200 m (656.17 feet) east-west by 150 m (492.13 feet) north-south, or 7.41 acres (3.0 hectares).

## RESULTS OF PHASE I AND PHASE II INVESTIGATIONS

Site 13FD63 was located during the Phase I investigation through an interview with local landowner Mrs. Gladys Gregg, and a follow-up pedestrian survey of the area. Mrs. Gregg indicated that there was a limestone rock quarry near her property and accompanied BCA personnel to the location. Although Mrs. Gregg suggested that limestone from this quarry may have been used to construct the Cook Farm, the quarry appears too small to have been the sole source of limestone for the farmstead. It is much more likely that this quarry was used as a source of limestone for construction of stone features on the nearby Ambrose W. Story cabin (13FD64) and/or other structures which may have been located near the quarry. An archival search provided an 1878 plat of Floyd County showing the quarry at site 13FD63 (Warner & Foote 1878; Figure 5). No other plats were found showing this quarry.

Site 13FD69 was located during the Phase I investigation through pedestrian survey in 1991. Current owners of the Cook Farm, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Fransdal, have indicated that stone from the quarry at 13FD69 was used to construct the buildings on the farm, including a cookhouse, barn, and residence. The location of the quarry at 13FD69 in relationship to the Cook Farm, and the small size of the quarry at 13FD63, make 13FD69 the likely source of limestone for the construction of the farmstead. Unfortunately, the quarry at 13FD69 is not indicated on any of the available plats of Floyd County (General Land Office Plat 1848-1849; Andreas 1875; Warner & Foote 1878; The Union Publishing Company 1895; Iowa Publishing Co. 1904; Anderson Publishing Co. 1913; Figures 3-8). Limestone appears to have been quarried from this location well into the 1960s. In 1968, after a tornado destroyed much of Charles City, the quarry was used for disposal of debris from the storm. The quarry continues to be used as a landfill for construction debris and a gunnery range.

## ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

No cultural material was found in association with 13FD63 or 13FD69.

## EVALUATION

An investigation of sites 13FD63 and 13FD69 revealed no tangible evidence of association with the Cook Farm NRHP property; however, the quarry at 13FD63 does not appear to have been large enough to have been the source of limestone for the construction of the buildings on the farmstead. The quarry at 13FD69, although it may have been the source of stone for the Cook Farm, has been impacted by further quarrying and subsequent use as a landfill and gunnery range. The quarry, as it would have appeared in the mid-1800s, has been destroyed. For this reason, site 13FD69 has no potential to yield significant data and is ineligible for nomination to the NRHP. The site requires no further investigation.

Although it has been suggested by the authors that the quarry at 13FD63 may have been used as a source of limestone for the construction of stone features on the nearby Ambrose W. Story cabin (13FD64), again, there is no tangible evidence for such a relationship. An archival search revealed a single 1878 plat which showed the quarry at 13FD63 (Warner & Foote 1878). Although this quarry does not appear to have been severely impacted since that time, the absence of archival information related to this site limits its potential to yield significant data concerning the local history. As an archeological site, the quarry has a low potential to yield significant data beyond the recording of its location. For these reasons, 13FD63 is not considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP.

#### **Site 13FD64**

#### **DESCRIPTION**

This site is located in the S1/2 SW1/4 NE1/4 SE1/4 of Section 20, T95N, R15W, St. Charles Township, Floyd County, Iowa (Figure 2). This site represents the probable location of the Ambrose W. Story cabin (Plates 24-26). Ambrose W. Story was the first Euro-American settler to Floyd County (Monroe & McCartney 1976:6; see 'An Historic Overview of the Cook Farm'). The site, located on a relatively level portion of a drainage sideslope and upland shoulder, measures approximately 6.0 m (19.69 feet) north-south by 4.0 m (13.12 feet) east-west and encompasses approximately .006 acres (.002 hectares). The elevation of 13FD64 is 1,010 feet NGVD. This site will not be directly impacted by the proposed U.S. 18/218 highway improvement corridor.

Soils in the area of site 13FD64 have been mapped as Dickinson soils (0-5% slopes). Soils of this series are well-drained and somewhat excessively drained soils commonly found on ridge crests and sideslopes.

#### **RESULTS OF PHASE I AND PHASE II INVESTIGATIONS**

Site 13FD64 was found during the Phase I investigation through an interview with local landowner Mrs. Gladys Gregg, and a follow-up pedestrian survey of the area. Mrs. Gregg indicated that there was a "cabin depression" near her property and accompanied BCA personnel to the location. Because the cabin site was located outside the proposed project ROW and could not be readily associated with any other historic features within the corridor, no intensive testing of the site was conducted during the Phase I investigation; however, foundation stones were clearly visible along the southern end of the site. A subsequent archival search revealed that the site was the likely location of the Ambrose W. Story cabin (see 'An Historic Overview of the Cook Farm').

As part of the early history of the property on which the Cook Farm was eventually constructed, it was determined that Phase II testing should

be conducted on site 13FD64 to further determine its relationship, if any, to the Cook Farm NRHP property.

Phase II investigation of 13FD64 consisted of systematic shovel testing, soil probe excavations, and 1 m x 1 m and 1 m x 2 m test unit excavations. To determine the parameters of the cabin, and to determine if any other historic features were present, shovel tests were placed at 2 m intervals across the nearly level portion of the drainage sideslope on which the site is located (N=22) (Figure 16). Four shovel tests revealed cultural material. Shovel Test 12, located within a depression in the southcentral portion of the cabin, revealed a large fragment of a cast iron wood stove top. Shovel Tests 16-18, excavated along the western edge of the cabin, revealed small fragments of limestone used in the construction of the cabin foundation. These limestone fragments were noted, but not collected. In addition to shovel tests, a 3.2 cm soil probe was utilized in an attempt to locate portions of the cabin foundation which were below the surface. Subsurface excavations revealed no plowzone within the site area.

Based on the results of the shovel tests and soil probe excavations, the location of two depressions within the site area, and visible foundation remnants, 3 test units were excavated at site 13FD64 (Figure 16). Test Unit 1, which began as a 1 m x 1 m unit, was excavated within a depression in the southcentral portion of the site. This unit was excavated to a depth of 40 cm below surface before a culturally sterile level was encountered. The unit profile revealed two distinct stratigraphic layers. A layer of unconsolidated black (10YR 2/1) silty loam extended 27 cm below the present surface of the depression (Figure 17; Plate 25). This layer mantled a B soil horizon of dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) silty clay loam. The majority of artifacts, including a large piece of cast iron wood stove, square cut nails, brick fragments, and charcoal, were found at 20-30 cm below surface; however, five square cut nails were found in the upper portions of the 30-40 cm level.

After completion of the original 1 m x 1 m test unit, the unit was extended further south in an attempt to more thoroughly define the foundation and to identify, if possible, a builder's trench (Figure 16). No builder's trench was identified in the resulting 1 m x 2 m unit, but the foundation was unearthed. Many of the foundation stones were reddened and exfoliated, suggesting that the stones had been exposed to intense heat. These stones, as well as the presence of charcoal fragments, may indicate that the cabin was destroyed by fire. The remainder of the artifact assemblage was similar to the original 1 m x 1 m unit.

Test Units 2 and 3, which both measured 1 m x 1 m, were excavated along the east and west boundaries of the site in an attempt to locate the cabin foundation in these areas (Figure 16). Test Unit 2 was excavated on the east boundary of the site, approximately 0.7 m east and 1.6 m north of Test Unit 1. This unit produced an abundance of small, unconsolidated limestone fragments in the eastern half of the unit at 20-30 cm below

surface. The limestone fragments were not collected; however, a hand-forged axe head was recovered at this level. Other levels revealed no cultural material. With the exception of the possible foundation stone remnants, no other features were identified in Test Unit 2. The unit, which was excavated to 40 cm below the present surface, revealed a soil profile similar to Test Unit 1.

Test Unit 3 was excavated on the west boundary of the site, approximately 0.7 m west and 1.6 m north of Test Unit 1 (Figure 16, Plate 26). Although the unit was excavated to 40 cm below the present surface, cultural material was limited to two square cut nails found at 0-10 cm below surface. Test Unit 3 revealed no evidence of the cabin foundation. The soil profile of Test Unit 3 was similar to that of the previously discussed test units.

## ARTIFACT ANALYSIS

The Phase II investigation of 13FD64 recovered a total of 75 artifacts, including 6 brick fragments, 65 machine-cut nails, 1 drawn wire nail, 2 cast iron stove top pieces, and 1 standard American poll ax (single bit). A description of these artifacts by provenience is provided below:

ST 1 (20-30 cm). One piece orange-red brick (hand pressed in mold). See TU 1 (10-20 cm).

TU 1 (10-20 cm). Five pieces orange-red brick with a sandy consistency. The largest piece shows that these were "standard common", or "8-inch," bricks that measured 3-3/4 x 2-1/4 x 8 inches (Smith, ed. 1976:227). The first two measurements were evident on the largest piece, but the length is an estimate for these specimens. This kind of brick was molded in open-top, box-like molds. One surface on most of these specimens is striated, which is a result of scraping across the top of the mold to remove excess clay. The opposite surface on the largest specimen has fine-weave fabric impressions (made when the brick was in a "green" state), which are also visible on another one of the specimens. It is unclear what these impressions represent, but the base of the brick mold may have been lined with fabric for some reason. In a discussion of bricks found at the First Hermitage in Tennessee (where a majority of the artifacts recovered have been found to date from ca. 1820 until the late 1850s), Smith (1976:227, after Walker 1971:47-53) also notes that this kind of brick "was widely used by the early part of the nineteenth century and continued to be made in much the same technological manner for many decades thereafter." In summary, while bricks have limited value as precise chronological indicators, the examples of 13FD64 could easily date as early as the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Also present in this provenience is one square, machine-cut nail (8d) (see below).

TU 1 (20-30 cm). Various complete square, machine-cut nails were recovered in a range of pennyweights: 4 10d (3 are bent at 1-1/4 - 1-1/2"); 17 8d

(3 are bent at 1-3/4", 3 at 1"); 16 6d (1 is bent at 1-1/2", 2 at 3/4", 1 at 1/2"); and 22 3d finishing nails (1 is bent at 1", 1 at 7/8", 1 at 1/2", 2 at 1/4"). Fifteen incomplete portions of square-cut heads with shanks were present, along with 17 incomplete square-cut shanks. One common, drawn wire nail (6d) was present. The uses of the various pennyweights recovered can be summarized as follows (from Benthall 1973:Table 7): 10d = furring strips, flooring, boarding, and interior fittings; 8d = flooring, furring strips, wood grounds, and interior fittings; 6d = light framing, clapboarding, bevel siding, and wood grounds; and 3-4d = shingles, moulding, cabinet work, and interior work. The lengths at which they bent often indicate the thickness of the (usually wooden) item they were securing.

The square-cut nails recovered from this provenience date from the late 1830s to the present and fall within Nelson's (1968) category "modern" machine-cut nails. Fontana and Greenleaf (1962:54) note that these nails remained in common use until ca. 1890. Nelson (1968) dates modern wire nails at ca. 1850s to the present. The fact that all but one of the nails recovered from this test unit provenience are of the square-cut variety suggests that a beginning date for the site could reasonably be by the 1850s.

TU 1 (20-30 cm, 1 piece) and ST 1 (20-30 cm, 1 piece). Two parts (fit together) of a plain cast-iron stove top (to fit over fire box). There is enough of the stove top to indicate that there were 4 holes ("burners"), which would have been fitted with circular iron plates that sat on a molded ledge within the hole area that could be lifted off with handles. Often these plates were made up of concentric circles/rings that could be removed as necessary to accommodate different-sized cooking vessels. The holes (8-1/2" outside diameter; 7-3/4" inside diameter) were formed by separate cast pieces that were joined to the stove top by flat stove bolts (1-1/4"). The width of the specimens after piecing them together is 22-1/2"; length is estimated at 28-30". At what would have been the approximate middle point on front edge of stove (ca. 11-1/2"), a raised "No." was apparent (part of the mold in which the stove was cast), which probably represents the first part of the stove's patent number. The rear portion of the stove top has a molded ridge that fits into the back, top edge of the fire box. One flat, U-shaped lug with a hole is present near the extant rear corner of the stove top, which indicates that the stove was bolted to the fire box.

James E. Price (personal communication 1992) has excavated and analyzed numerous nineteenth-century domestic sites in the Missouri Ozarks and notes that stoves were generally not present in deposits that predated the arrival of rail transport in the area. In the case of Floyd County, however, rail transport into Charles City was available in 1869 (Roberts et al. 1992:63). Therefore it is feasible that this stove was obtained as early as this date.

TU 1 (30-40 cm). Various complete square, machine-cut nails were recovered in a range of pennyweights: 1 10d; 2 6d; and 2 3d finishing nails.



One incomplete portion of a square-cut head with shank was present, along with 1 incomplete square-cut shank.

TU 2 (20-30 cm). One standard American poll ax, single bit (see Russell 1967:257, Figure 62). This complete example is wrought iron, forge welded (bent over mold to form eye), possibly over a piece of steel to form the edge. Evidence of "steeling" is not readily apparent on this example, however, The ax roughly measures 6-1/2 x 4 x 1-1/8". The shape is almost rectangular and is slightly flared and rounded near the bit; the long, flat oval "eye" measures 2-1/2" in length.

The double-bitted ax was not introduced until ca. 1870-80 (James E. Price, personal communication 1992). It is suggested that the specimen in this test unit potentially dates to the period 1850 - 1870.

TU 3 (0-10 cm). One broken (at mid-shank) square, machine-cut nail (7-8d).

Due to the nature of the material-culture categories of the recovered items (nails, ax, bricks, stove parts), none of the artifacts recovered can be dated to a specific year or to a several-year time period. Taken together, however, the artifacts point toward a time period of 1850 - 1870 for this site.

## EVALUATION

Archival information, as well as the general dates associated with artifacts recovered from 13FD64 during Phase II field investigations, indicates that site 13FD64 is the likely location of the Ambrose W. Story cabin (see 'Historic Overview of the Cook Farm').

Although no direct relationship could be found between archeological site 13FD64 and the Cook Farm NRHP property, 13FD64 appears to be significant on its own merit. The intact nature of archeological site 13FD64 and its importance in the history of Floyd County make this site eligible for nomination to the NRHP under National Register Criterion-D (Federal Register 1981:50189). This site is located outside of the proposed U.S. 18/218 highway improvement corridor and will not be impacted by activities associated with this project if the present alignment is used.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A Phase I cultural resource investigation of the U.S. 18/218 highway improvement corridor, Rudd to Charles City, Floyd County, Iowa, conducted from July-November 1991, resulted in the location of four historic archeological sites which appeared to have some potential relationship to the Cook Farm, an architectural property placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on June 18, 1979. The historic archeological sites include a stagecoach trail (13FD62), two limestone quarries (13FD63 and 13FD69), and the possible location of the log cabin of the first Euro-

American settler in Floyd County (13FD64). Investigation at the Phase II level was necessary in order to assess the significance of each site, determine its relationship to the Cook Farm, and to make recommendations concerning eligibility for nomination to the National Register. Additional investigation of the Cook Farm was also initiated. The Cook Farm was originally listed in the NRHP based largely on the stone architecture of the buildings that comprised the farmstead (National Register Criterion-C). The current research has viewed the Cook Farm in terms of additional NRHP criterion, including those for historic landscapes.

Of the four historic archeological sites which were evaluated at the Phase II level of investigation, two appear to have been directly or indirectly related to the Cook Farm NRHP property. The limestone quarry at 13FD69 appears to have been the probable source of stone for the structures on the farm. However, stone has been extensively quarried from this location since the construction of the Cook Farm. After a tornado struck Charles City in 1968, the quarry was utilized by the county as a fill site for construction debris. The quarry continues to be used as a fill site by the county, and as a firing range by the Charles City Police Department. These impacts make site 13FD69 ineligible for nomination to the NRHP; no further work is recommended at this site. Approximately the western one-third of this 13FD69 will be impacted by the proposed U.S. 18/218 highway improvement corridor (Figure 2).

Site 13FD62 consists of a remnant of the "river road" stagecoach line. The original stagecoach line was established sometime after November, 1854. By 1876, the stagecoach route was incorporated as part of the Independence and State Line Road. Although 13FD62 may have been directly or indirectly related to the Cook Farm property in terms of its proximity to the farmstead, which may have also functioned as a stagecoach stop, and its possible role in the skirmish at Bloody Run, it is not considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP. Site 13FD62 represents only a small remnant of the historic stagecoach line; the remainder of the original road has been impacted by construction of U.S. Highway 218. The site itself has been partially impacted by the construction of the Gregg home. As an archeological site, this remnant has a low potential to yield significant data beyond the recording of its location. In view of these reasons, 13FD62 is not considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP; no further work is recommended.

Another limestone quarry is located at site 13FD63. Although a local landowner suggested that limestone from this quarry may have been used to construct the Cook Farm, the quarry appears too small to have been the sole source of limestone for the farmstead. An 1878 plat of Floyd County shows the quarry at site 13FD63 (Warner & Foote 1878; Figure 5); however, no other archival information was found pertaining to this quarry. Although this quarry does not appear to have been severely impacted since 1878, the absence of archival information related to this site limits its

potential to yield significant data concerning the local history. As an archeological site, the quarry has a low potential to yield significant data beyond the recording of its location. For these reasons, 13FD63 is not considered eligible for nomination to the NRHP. This site will not be impacted by the proposed U.S. 18/218 highway improvement corridor.

Archival information, as well as the general dates associated with artifacts recovered from 13FD64 during Phase II field investigations, indicates that site 13FD64 represents the location of the Ambrose W. Story cabin. Ambrose W. Story did the first ground breaking in Floyd county and is considered the first Euro-American settler to the county. Story came to Floyd County in the spring of 1850 and built a log cabin near the Cedar River, on the southeast corner of the property that was eventually to become part of the Cook Farm, namely, Section 20, T95N, R15W (Montag 1882:257; Monroe & McCartney 1976:6-7). Although Story constructed a cabin at this location, he evidently did not own the property on which he built his cabin. On January 26, 1853, Jonathan J. Stone purchased 40 acres, including the cabin site, from the U.S. government (Floyd County Original Entry Book, Vol. 1). It is unknown if the Story cabin remained in use after Stone purchased the property. The cabin appears to have been no longer standing by 1882 (Montag, ed. 1882:257).

Although no direct relationship could be found between archeological site 13FD64 and the Cook Farm NRHP property, 13FD64 appears to be significant on its own merit. The intact nature of archeological site 13FD64 and its importance in the history of Floyd County make this site eligible for nomination to the NRHP under National Register Criterion-D (Federal Register 1981:50189). This site is located outside of the proposed U.S. 18/218 highway improvement corridor and will not be impacted by activities associated with this project if the present alignment is used.

The Cook farmhouse, barns, and outbuildings probably rank among the most compelling vestiges of the agricultural history of Iowa. The large limestone buildings, constructed between ca. 1856 and 1862, represent a set of unique architectural landmarks and are an extraordinary visual feature of the area. The square barn is especially significant in the history of Iowa. According to the NRHP evaluation, "Native stone buildings from the mid 19th century are significant for their very scarcity in Iowa.... Most of these buildings are houses, with schools and churches next in number. *Of extreme rarity are stone barns* " (NRHP evaluation 1979; our emphasis). Furthermore, the cubic form of the west section of the barn is virtually unknown in the state.

However, spatial relationships between the Cook Farm buildings and historically related sites is critical to evaluating the farm's significance as an historic landscape. Available information suggests that the stone used in constructing the house and outbuildings was quarried at a site east of the farmstead along the river (13FD69). Quarry sites may be cultural landforms, and this particular limestone quarry may be significant

because of its association with the Cook Farm, but the landscape history linkage between the stone buildings and the quarry is tenuous at best. The landscape history connection between the Cook Farm and archeological evidence of previous Euro-American occupations (13FD64) is also difficult to discern. In addition, the outlying fields, fence rows, and farm lanes (13FD62) of the Cook Farm do not appear to contain visual characteristics indicative of their use during the late-19th century. In conclusion, the Cook Farm is not eligible for nomination to the National Register as an historic landscape because the rural landscape that characterized the property during the period of its significance (ca. 1850s-1880s) is no longer present.

Although the Cook Farm is not considered eligible for nomination to the National Register as an historic landscape, there is some concern about damage to the structures on the National Register property due to traffic vibrations. Damage to the farm structures from the traffic vibrations of Hwy. 218 is already evident (Plates 6-7). Vibrations testing would be beneficial in determining the potential, if any, for damage to the structures resulting from the placement of the proposed highway. If the present alignment is implemented, steps should be taken to insure the physical stability of the farm structures in order to guarantee their preservation for future generations.

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## FIGURES

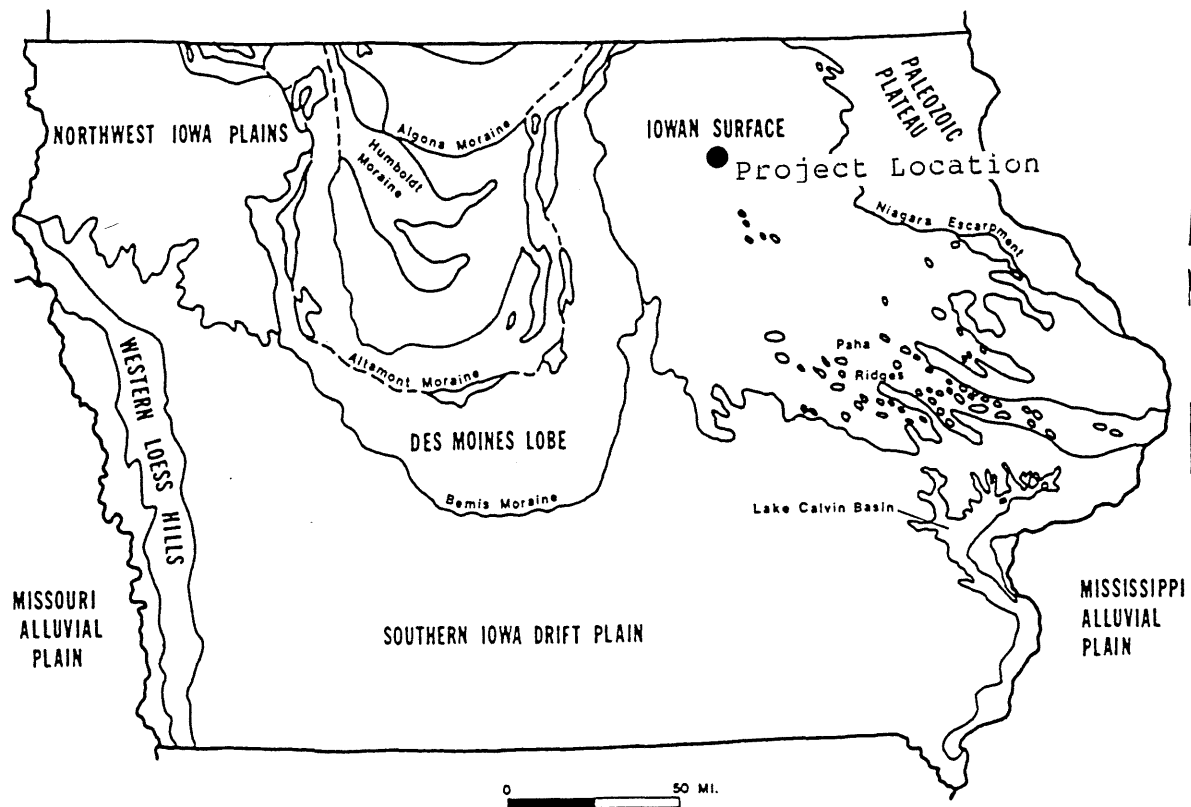
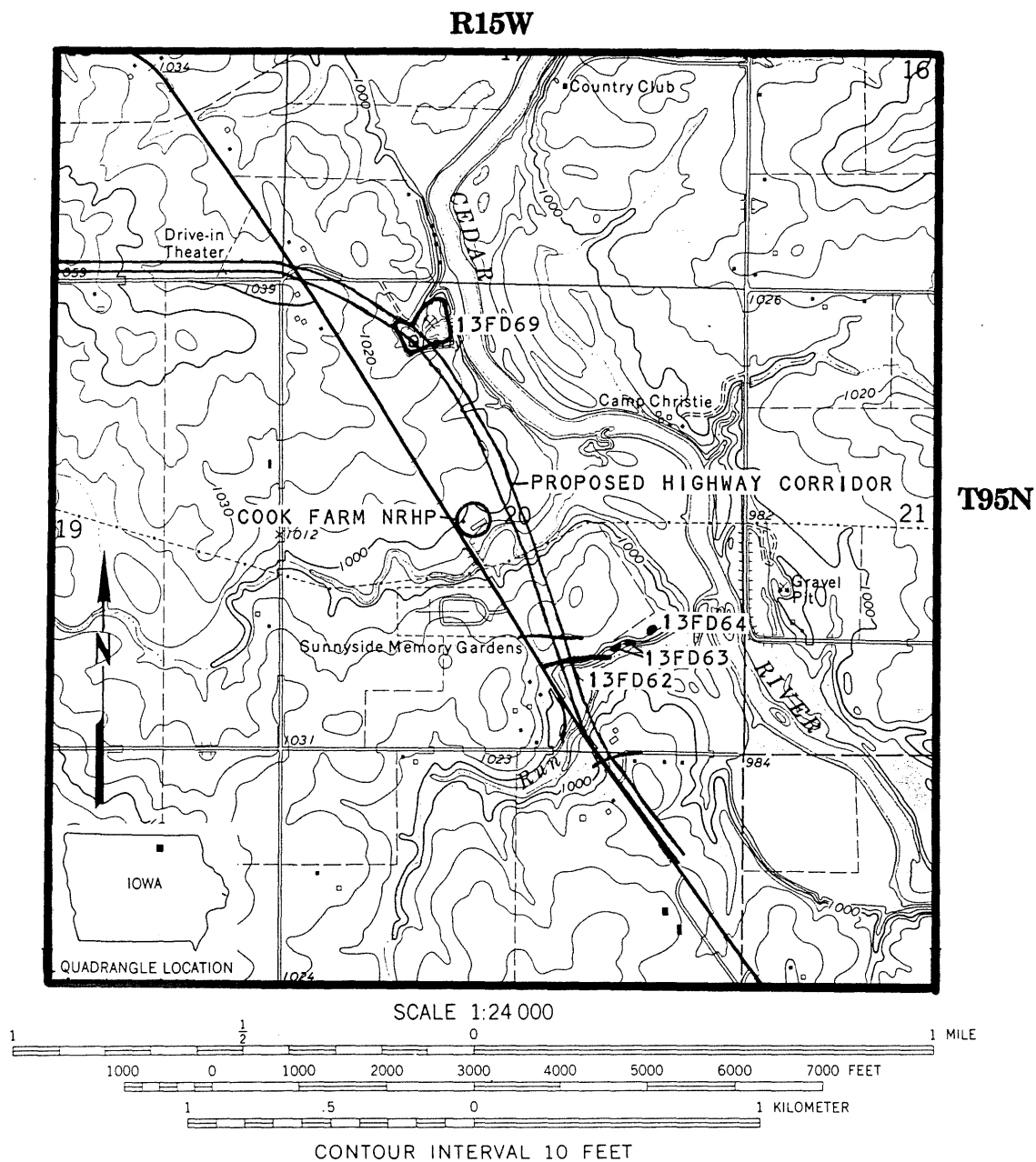


Figure 1. Physiographic location of project corridor (after Prior 1991).  
 Field date: 6/1-7/24/92  
 BCA #138A



**Figure 2.** Topographic coverage of project area. USGS 7.5' Quad map: Charles City, Iowa 1971. Legal location: Section 20, T95N, R15W, St. Charles Township, Floyd County, Iowa. Field date: 6/1-7/24/92 BCA #138A

Figure 3. Project area, circa 1848-1849 (Adapted from General Land  
Office Plats for Floyd County, 1848-1849).  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92 BCA #138A

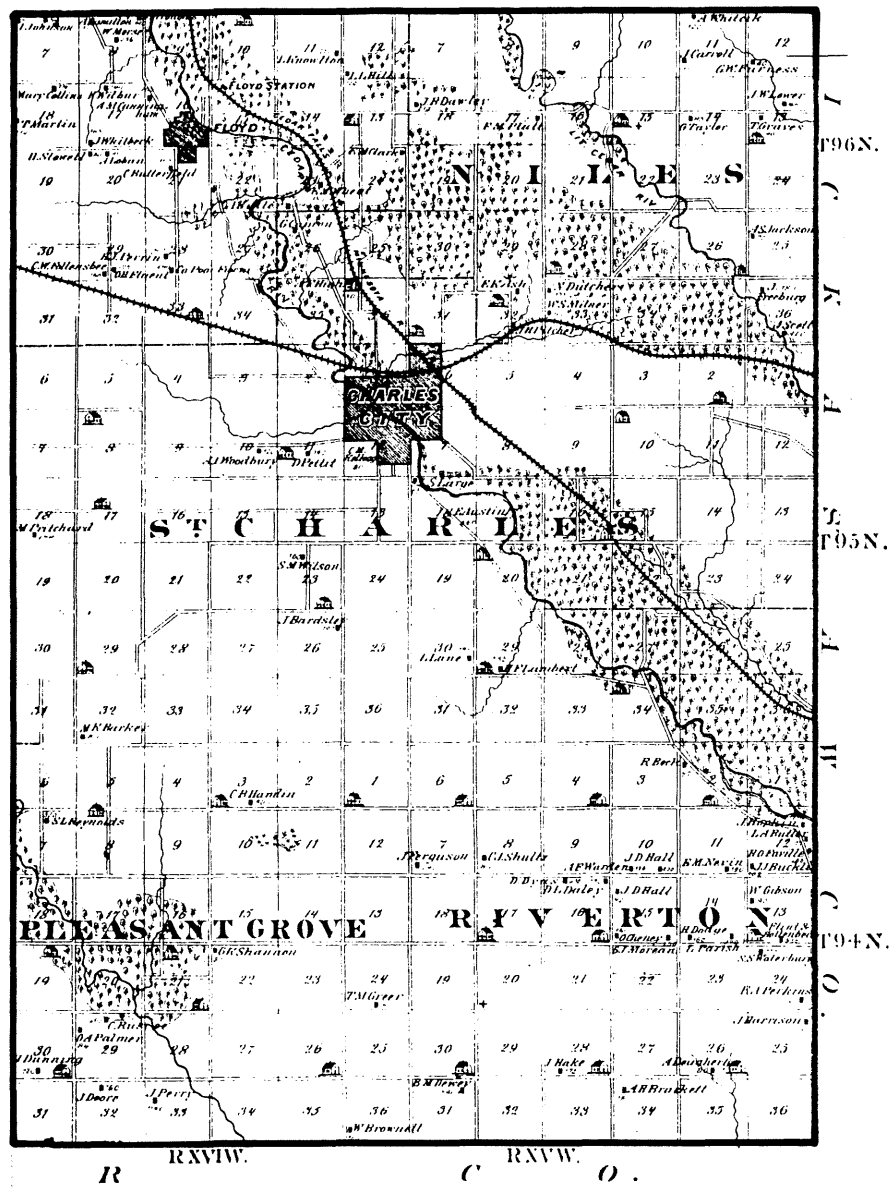
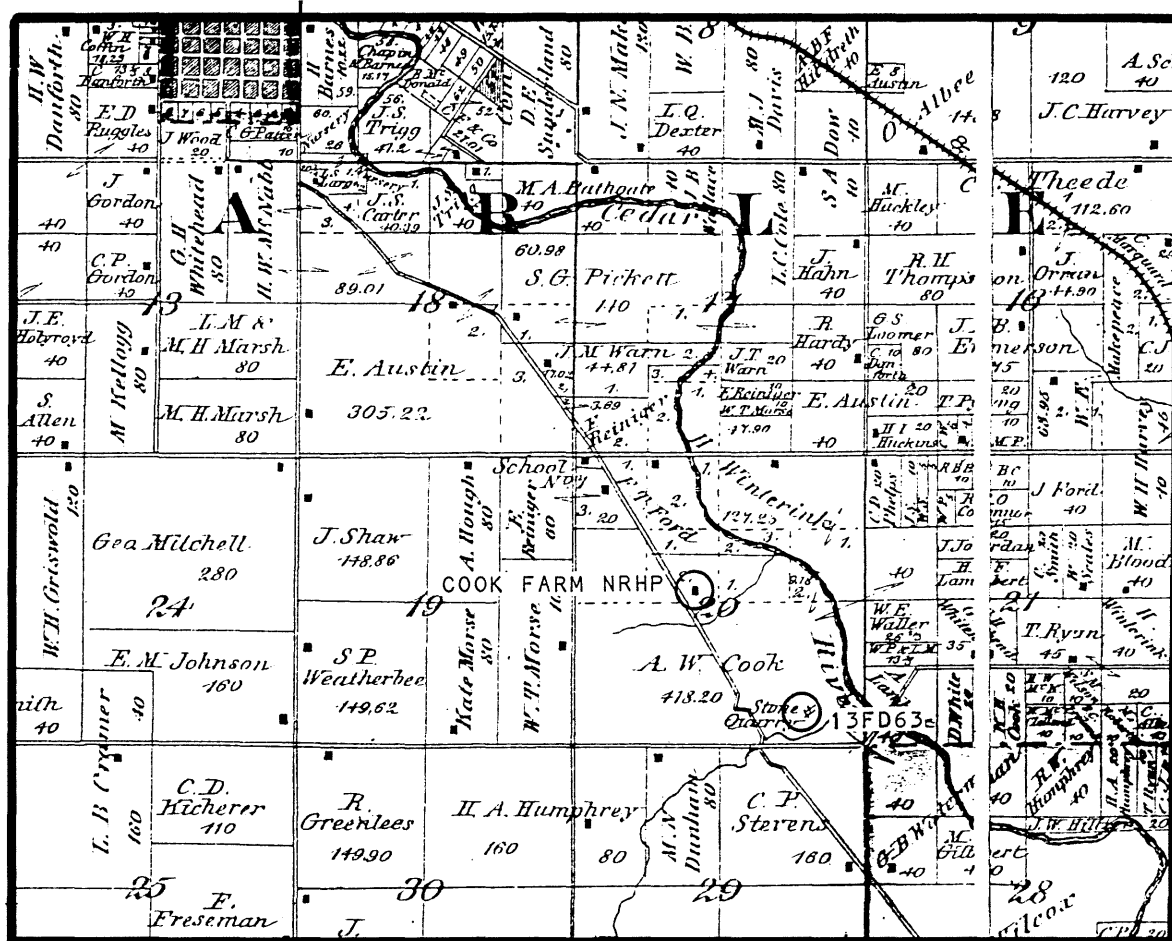


Figure 4. Project area, circa 1875 (Andreas 1875).  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A

**T95N**

70

Figure 6. 1895 plat showing the Cook Farm (The Union Publishing  
Company 1895).  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A





Figure 8. 1913 plat showing the Cook Farm (The Anderson Publishing  
Co., 1913).  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A

Figure 9. Illustration of the Cook Farm residence as it appeared circa 1980 (Drawn by artist Tom Mitchell, circa 1980).  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92 BCA #138A



Figure 10. Illustration of the Cook Farm barn as it appeared circa 1980  
(Drawn by artist Tom Mitchell, circa 1980).  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92 BCA #138A

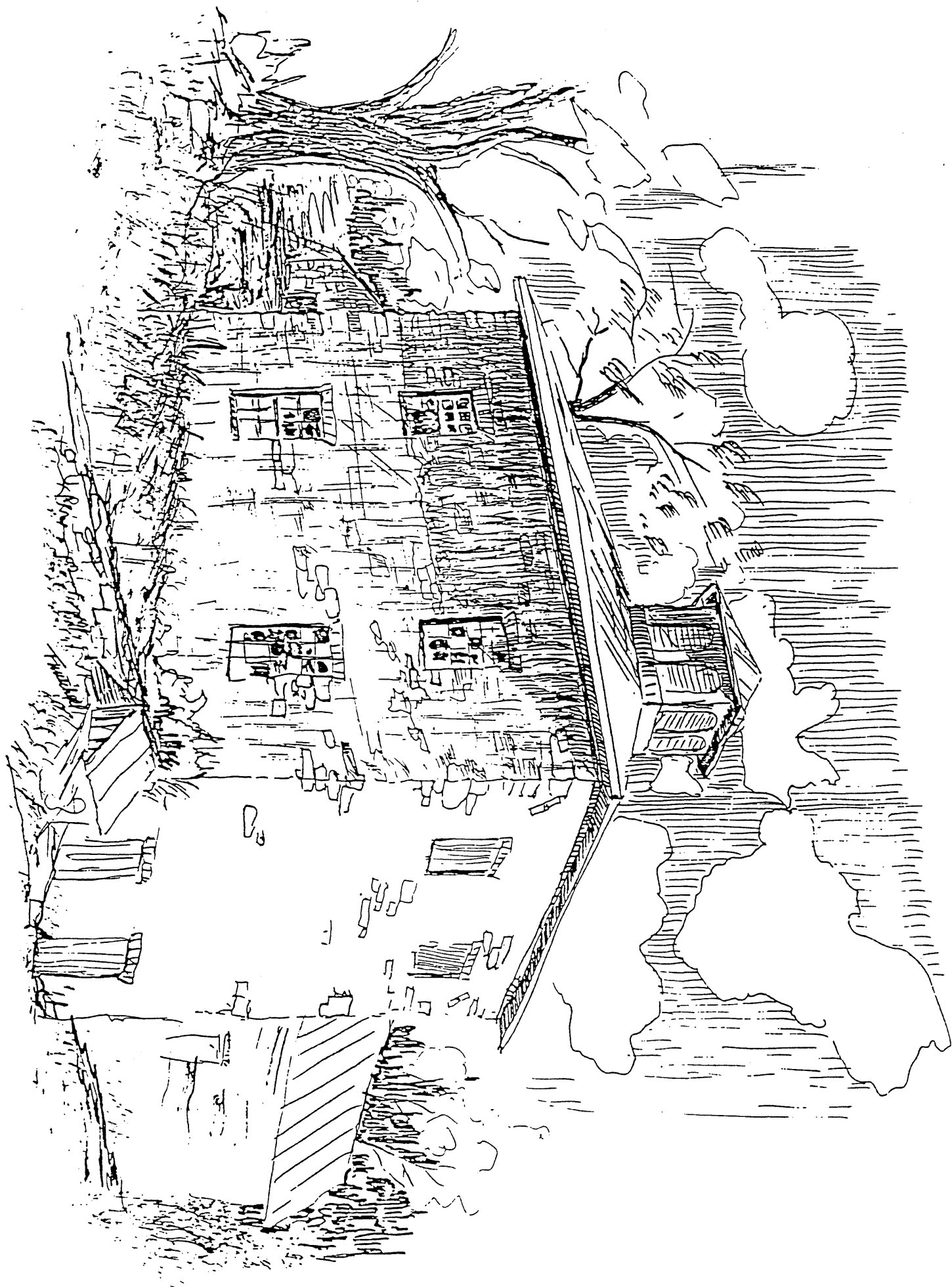


Figure 11. Copy of aerial photograph of the Cook Farm showing the approximate location of the proposed U.S. 18/218 highway improvement corridor in relationship to the NRHP property.  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92 BCA #138A

Figure 12. Affidavit of Publication in The Iowa Homestead. Obtained from the probate records of A.W. Cook, on file in the Office of the Recorder, Floyd County.  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A

# AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION.

STATE OF IOWA, }  
POLK COUNTY }

**PERCHERON  
NORMAN HORSES.**  
A NEW IMPORTATION.  
Arrived home from France September 9th with  
**12 Stallions and 3 Mares,**  
6 to 8 years old—greys; blacks and bays; all superior  
animals. All recorded in the Stud Book of France.  
These horses are for sale at prices much below the  
prices heretofore obtained for horses not as val-  
uable. Come and see the horses, or, if you cannot  
come, write and get our prices. I also have for sale  
high grade 2 and 3 year old.

**SHORT-HORN HEIFERS,**  
All blood-reds; bred to an extra fine Imported  
Polled Angus bull, the other half to Eva's Proud  
Duke 2d 2877, the Short-Horn bull that was for a  
number of years at the head of C. S. Barclay's herd,  
West Liberty, Iowa. I also have for sale one extra  
large, fine Polled Angus bull calf 6 months old; sire  
and dam both imported. A number of high grade  
Polled Angus and Short-Horn bull calves—good  
ones, for sale. Pure Scotch Collie Pups for sale. I  
would also sell Spring Valley Farm, surely one of  
the best stock and grain farms in Iowa. Improve-  
ments cost more than half the price I ask for the  
farm. Send for description. A. W. COOK.  
Charles City, Iowa, Sept. 30, 1886.

JAMES M. PIERCE, being sworn, says that he is the Secretary and  
Business Manager of the HOMESTEAD, a newspaper printed in Des  
Moines, Polk County, Iowa, and that the notice of which the annexed is  
a printed copy, was published in said HOMESTEAD, *eight*  
weeks, the first publication being on the *first* day of  
*October* 1886, and the last the *26th*  
day of *November* 1886

*James M. Pierce*

Subscribed and sworn to by said JAMES M. PIERCE, before me,  
this *17th* day of *March* 1887

*C. C. Carlin*

Notary Public, Polk County, Iowa.

Printer's Fee \$ *20 00*

Paid by

*Des Moines, Iowa, March 16 1887*

*Mr. A. W. Cook*

In Account with

*Charles City, Iowa*

**THE IOWA HOMESTEAD**



**A WESTERN FARM JOURNAL**  
ESTABLISHED 1855.

AN INDEPENDENT AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY WEEKLY.

JAMES M. PIERCE,

Sec'y and Manager.

*1886*  
*1 To 2 1/2 inch adv. 8 times.*



<p><b>Why Will You.</b></p> <p>Allow a cold to advance in your system and thus encourage more serious maladies, such as Pneumonia, Hemorrhages, Lung troubles when an immediate relief can be so readily attained. <i>Boesche's German Syrup</i> has gained the largest sale in the world for the cure of Coughs, Colds and the severest Lung Diseases. It is Dr. Boesche's famous German prescription, and is prepared with the greatest care, and no fear need be entertained in administering it to the youngest child, as per directions. The sale of this medicine is unprecedented. Since first introduced there has been a constant increasing demand and without a single report of a failure to do its work in any case. Ask your Druggist as to the truth of these remarks. Large size 75 cents. Try it and be convinced. 234-cow</p>	<p><b>FRUITS.</b></p> <p><b>FISH.</b></p> <p><b>Syrups, Tobacco,</b></p> <p><b>And Cigars.</b></p> <p>In fact everything usually kept in a First-Class Drug and Grocery Store, and at as low prices, as good goods can be sold.</p> <p><b>PRESCRIPTIONS CAREFULLY COMPOUNDED.</b></p>	<p><b>Townsend &amp; Smith.</b></p> <p>Keep a full and complete line of</p> <p><b>HARDWARE</b></p> <p>Barbed and Plain</p> <p><b>FENCE WIRE,</b></p> <p><b>PUMPS,</b></p> <p><b>STOVES,</b></p> <p>and make a specialty of</p> <p><b>OUTLERY.</b></p>
<p><b>House to Rent.</b></p> <p>House, barn, and ten acres of land to rent, by the year. For terms, apply to L. J. WALKER.</p> <p>Leave word at Crane &amp; Spaulding's.</p>	<p><b>FINE HORSES.</b></p> <p>The imported horses, "TROCADERO," (Norman-Percheron) and "IMPETUOUS," (Cleveland Bay) are now ready for service at my stables near Charles City, on the following terms:</p> <p><b>\$15 to INSURE.</b></p>	<p>Every Scissor, Shear and Pocket Knife</p> <p><b>WARRANTED</b></p> <p>Call and examine their splendid new stock.</p> <p><b>Townsend &amp; Smith.</b></p>
<p><b>MONEY TO LOAN ON IMPROVED FARMS AT 8 PER CENT. WILSON LANE. CHARLES CITY, IOWA</b></p>	<p>Pasture furnished mares from a distance at reasonable rates. Charges for single service or the season, reasonable. Any one parting with the mare bred before her foaling time will be held responsible for the insurance money.</p> <p><b>TROCADERO</b></p> <p>Imported September, 1878; four years old, 16½ hands high; weight, 1750 pounds; color black. A horse of good length and uncommon breadth of quarters; very heavy bones; a powerful physique; fine head, carried well up; feet, head, eyes and ears all right. A good square trotter and a good walker. Will surely weigh over 1800 pounds when mature.</p> <p><b>IMPETUOUS.</b></p> <p>Is a pure Cleveland Bay, from Yorkshire, England. Imported September, 1878; five years old; a dark bay without a white hair; 16½ hands high; weight, strong 1250 pounds; a more stylish or active horse of his size it would be hard to find. His hoof is perfect; legs clean and hard like bars of steel. He is a rapid trotter; carriage lofty. He shows blood and good style. Very popular here. Is a very perfect type of a fine English carriage horse.</p>	<p>Every Scissor, Shear and Pocket Knife</p> <p><b>WARRANTED</b></p> <p>Call and examine their splendid new stock.</p> <p><b>Townsend &amp; Smith.</b></p>
<p><b>Grass Seeds</b></p> <p><b>FULL STOCK,</b></p> <p><b>ALSO</b></p> <p><b>Garden and Field SEEDS,</b></p> <p><b>FOR SALE BY</b></p> <p><b>Raymond Bros</b></p>	<p>In offering the services of the above horses to the farmers of Floyd county, I am, in my opinion, offering the two best horses that were ever in my stables. The Cleveland Bay is especially fine, stylish and active. Come and see me.</p> <p>The reason for a reduction of prices this year is the present stringency in the finances of the country. The low prices offered will be for this season only.</p> <p><b>A. W. C. C. K.</b></p>	<p><b>HOWARD &amp; SON,</b></p> <p><b>DRUGGISTS</b></p> <p>AND DEALERS IN</p> <p><b>BOOKS, STATIONERY, PAPER, TOILET ARTICLES.</b></p> <p>(Opposite Public Square.)</p> <p><b>CHARLES CITY, IO.</b></p> <p>Open Sundays from 9 to 10 A. M. and 3 to 4 P. M.</p>
<p><b>Canada Scotch Flax.</b></p> <p>This wheat yielded me 252 bushels machine measure from 94 acres of ground, last year. It has proved itself to be a very hardy and superior wheat. I shall sell at 1.50 per bushel. Sample can be seen at Marsh Harvester H'd Quarters in Charles City, or at my farm 5 miles north-west of Floyd.</p> <p>Let every farmer avail himself of this opportunity to secure a few bushels of this wheat.</p> <p><b>J. B. VAN AMBERG</b> Floyd Iowa.</p>	<p><b>DORN.</b></p> <p><b>HERRICK.</b></p> <p><b>CHICAGO</b></p>	<p><b>CHARLES CITY</b></p> <p><b>LUMBER YARD</b></p>

Figure 13. Advertisement placed by A.W. Cook in the Charles City Intelligencer. Charles City, Iowa. April 3, 1879.  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92 BCA #138A

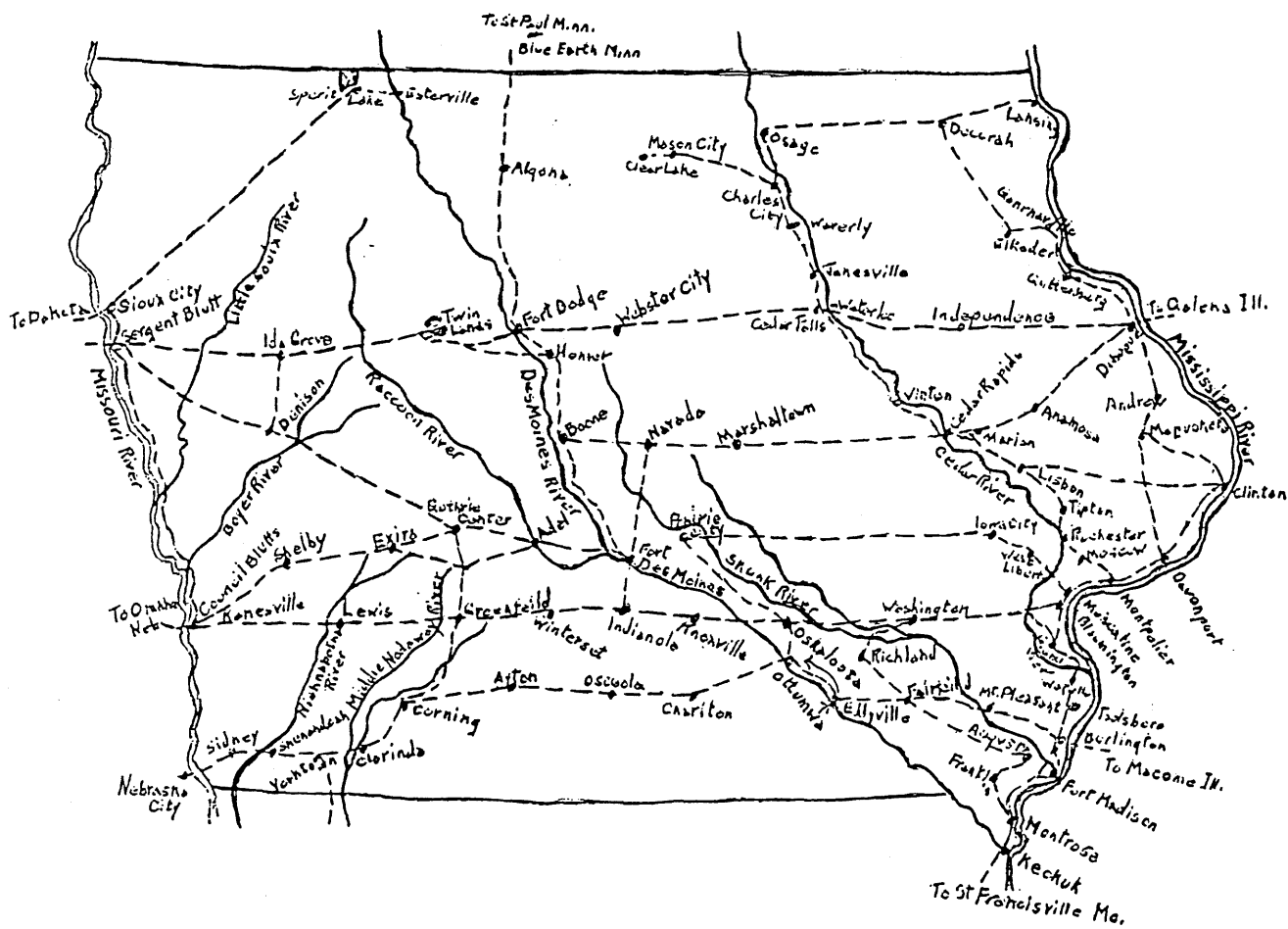


Figure 14. Stagecoach lines in Iowa (Monroe and McCartney, eds. 1976)  
 Field date: 6/1-7/24/92  
 BCA #138A

South  $\frac{1}{2}$  <sup>SE  $\frac{1}{4}$</sup>  Section 20. 95 15

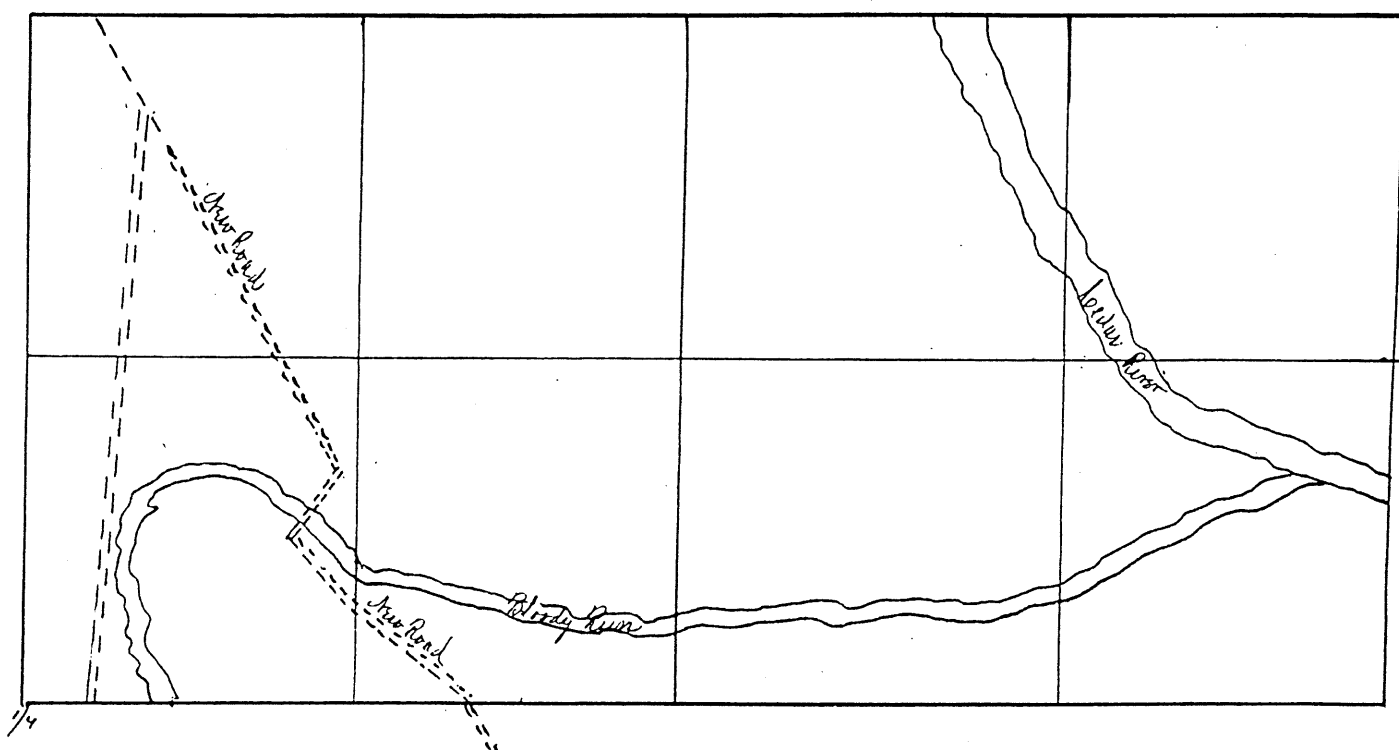


Figure 15. 1879 section of "New Road" near site 13FD62 (Floyd County Road Records n.d.:2:255).  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92 BCA #13

BCA #138A

# 13FD64 Site Map

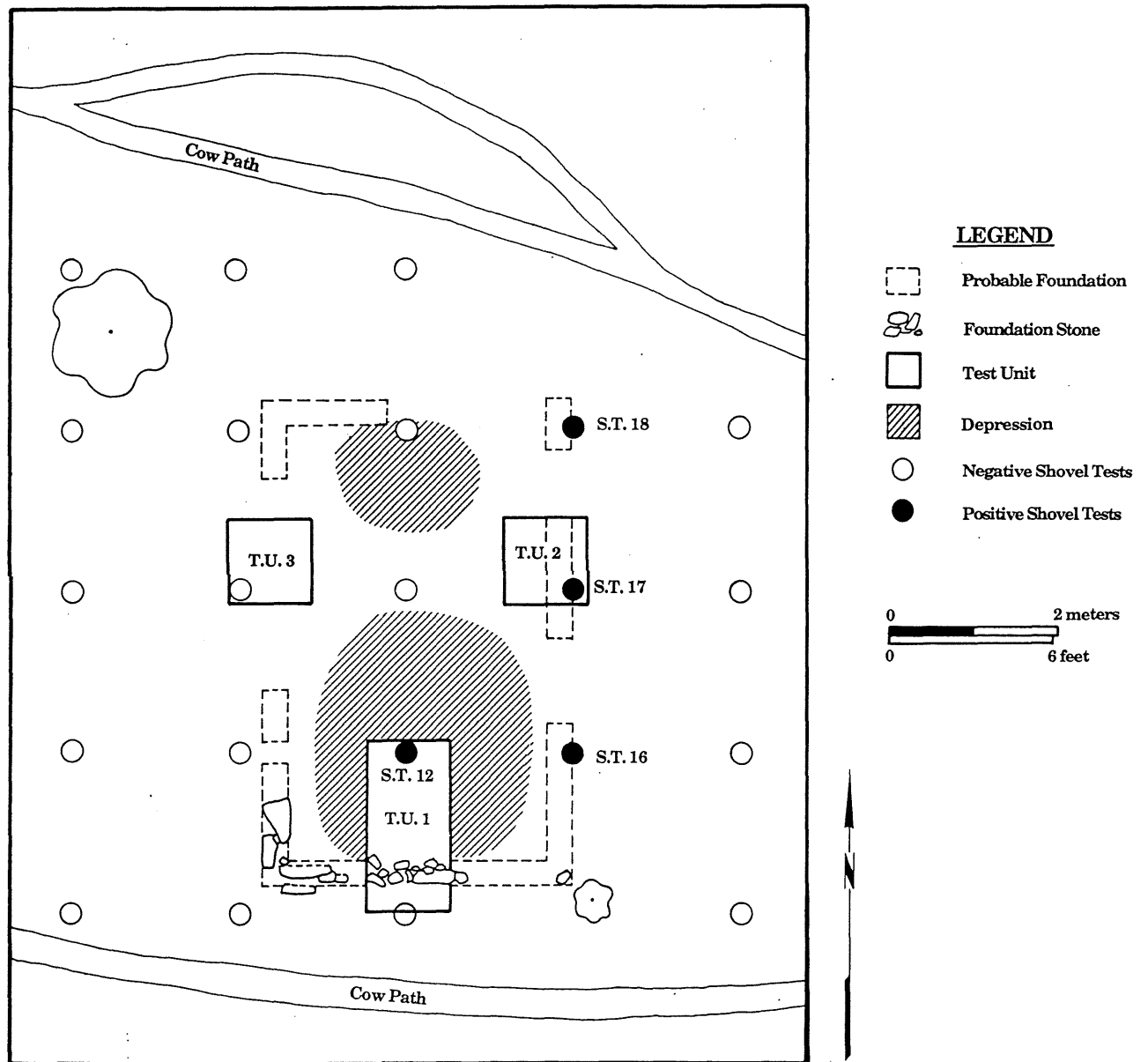


Figure 16. Scale map of 13FD64, the Ambrose W. Story cabin site.  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92  
BCA #138A

**13FD64  
Soil Profile  
North Wall, Test Unit 1**

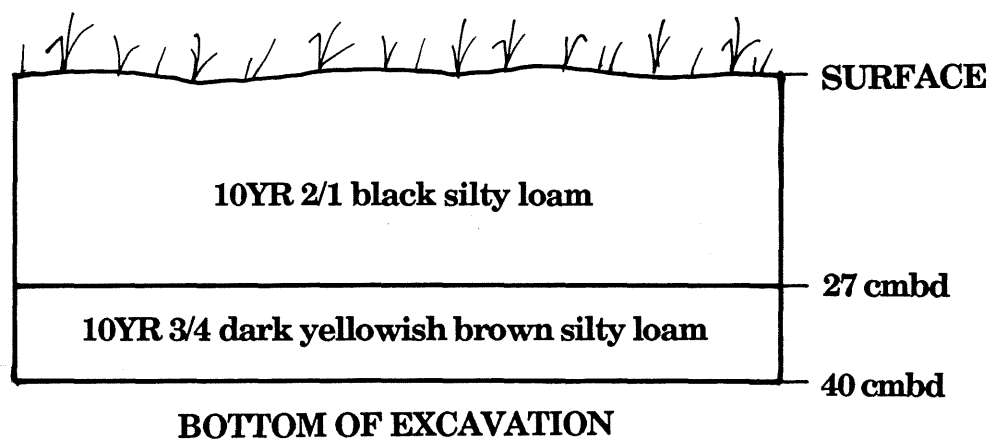
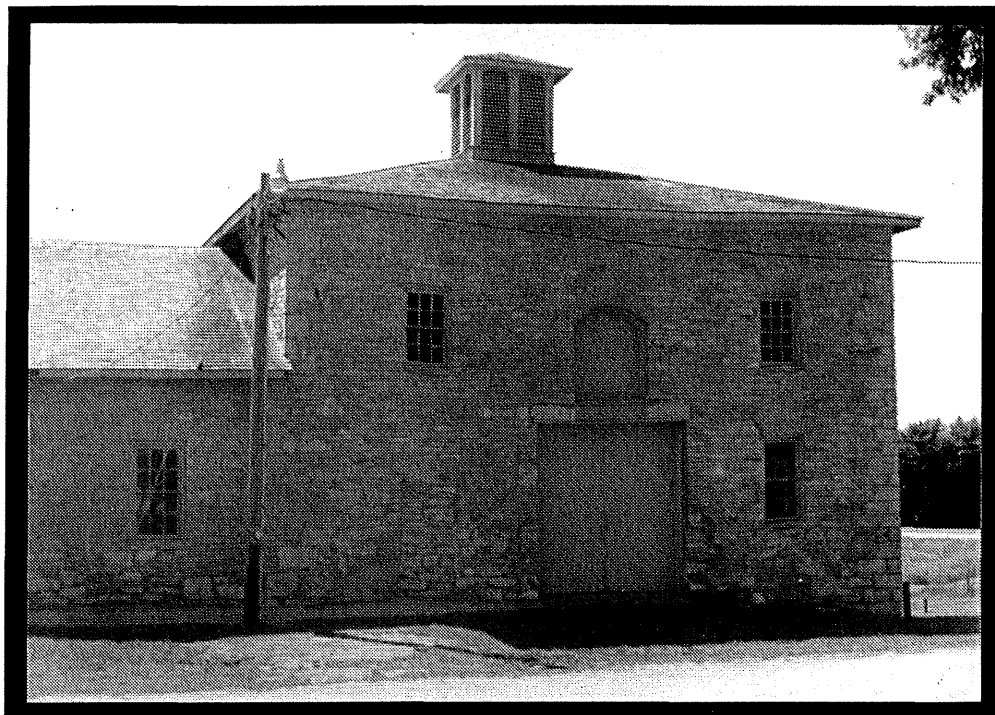
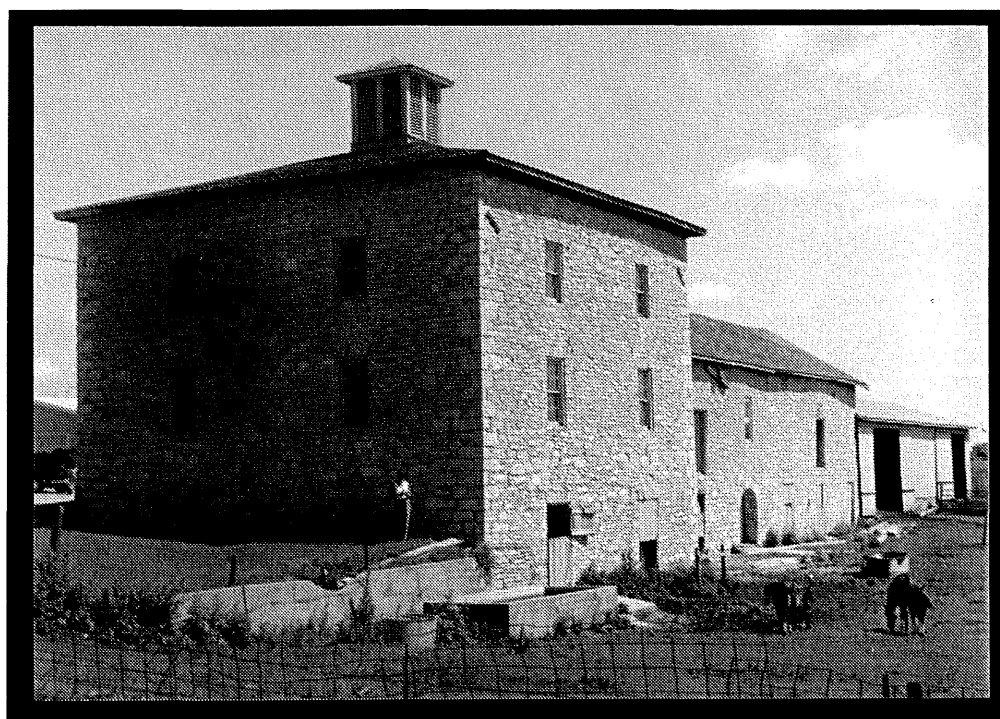


Figure 17. Stratigraphic profile of north wall, Test Unit 1, site 13FD64.  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92 BCA #138A

## PLATES



1.

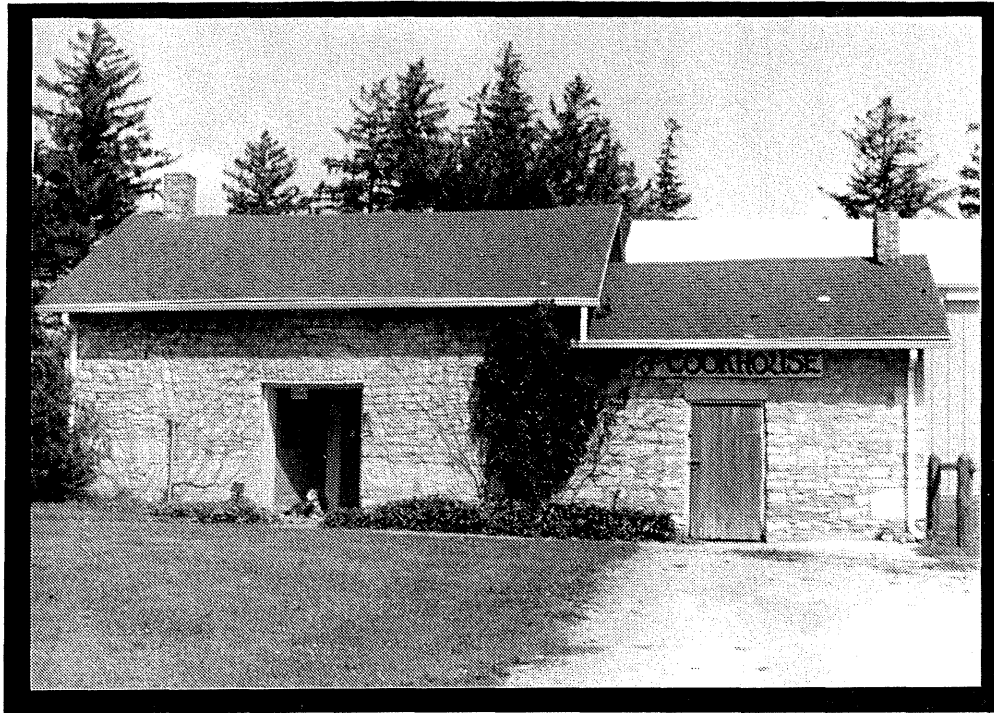


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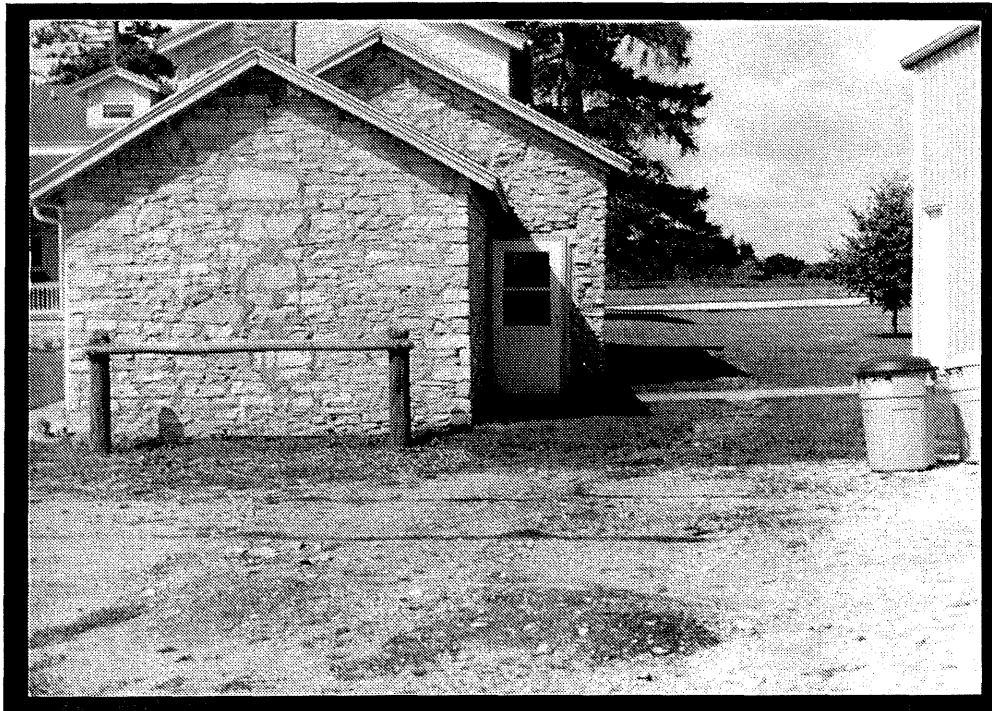
Plate 1. Photographic coverage of barn on Cook Farm, looking southeast.

Plate 2. Looking north at the Cook Farm barn.  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A



3.



4.

Plate 3. Photographic coverage of the cookhouse on the Cook Farm, looking northeast.

Plate 4. Former location of the Cook Farm bunkhouse northeast of the cookhouse, looking southwest.

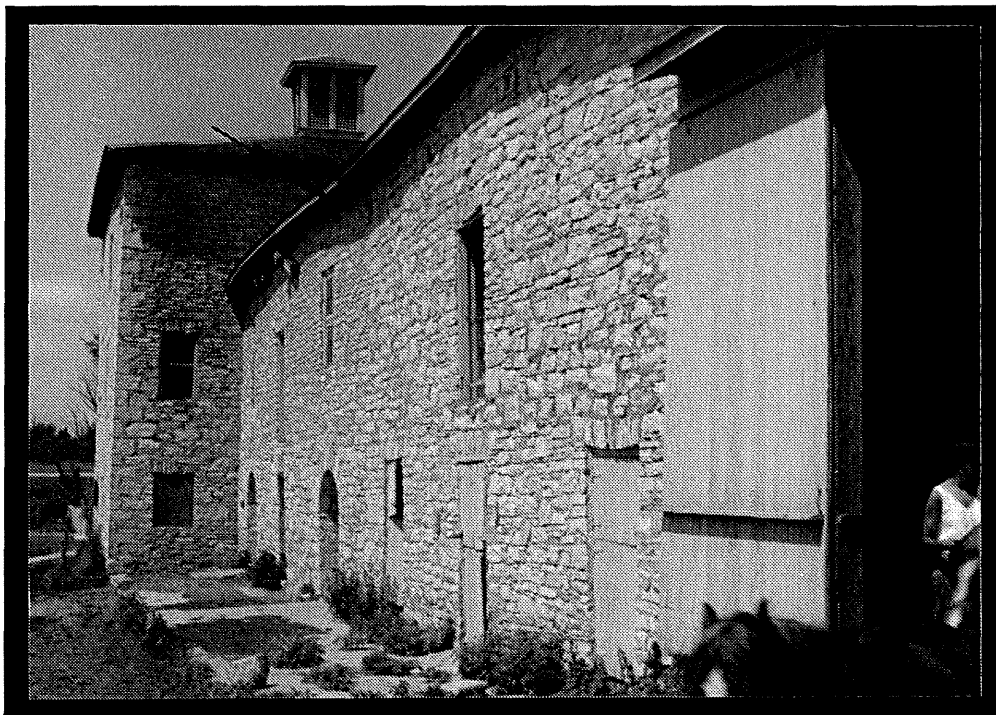
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A





5.



6.

Plate 5. Looking southwest from proposed highway corridor towards the Cook Farm NRHP property.

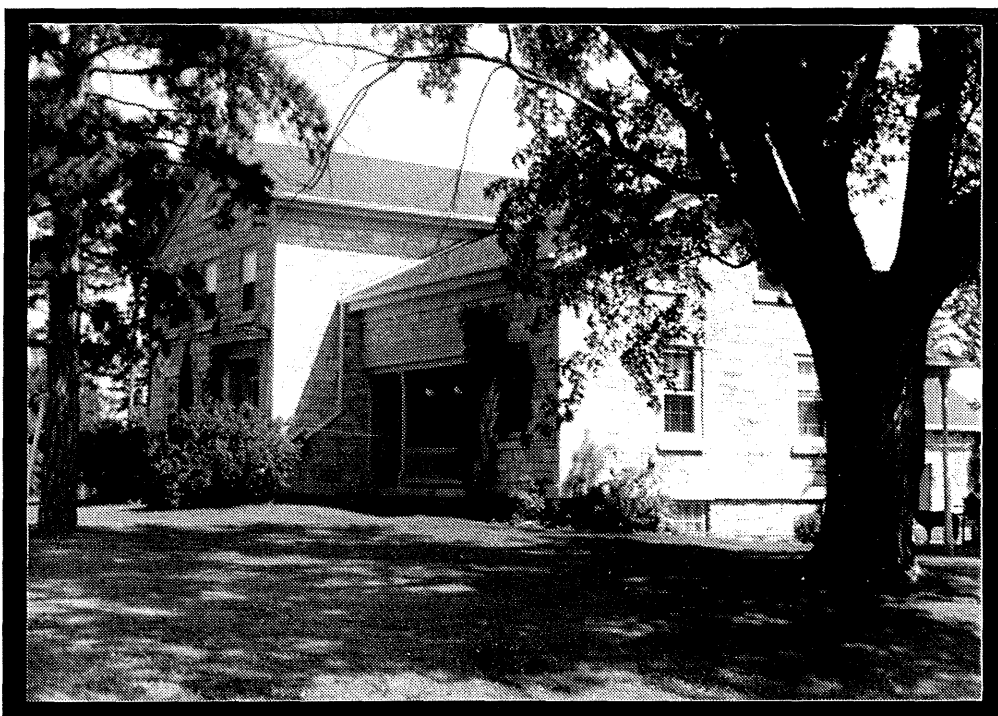
Plate 6. Profile of the Cook Farm barn showing buckling along one of the exterior walls. Facing southwest.

Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A



7.



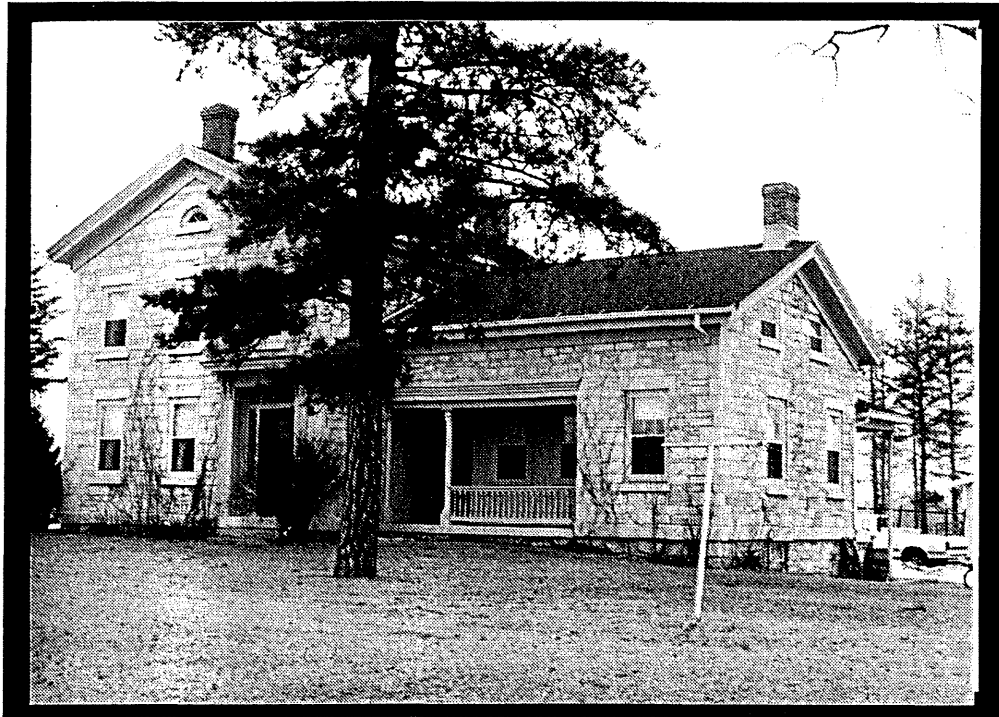
8.

Plate 7. Photographic coverage of damage on the interior of the Cook Farm barn, looking west.

Plate 8. Photographic coverage of the residence on the Cook Farm, looking north.

Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A



9.



10.

Plate 9. Front view of the Cook Farm residence, looking north.  
 Plate 10. Looking southwest at the back of the Cook Farm residence.  
 Field date: 6/1-7/24/92 BCA #138A



11.



12.

Plate 11. Photographic coverage of the recessed front porch on the Cook Farm residence, facing northeast.

Plate 12. Photographic coverage of one of the wood floors in the Cook Farm residence.

Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A



13.

**Plate 13.** Additional photographic coverage of one of the wood floors in the Cook Farm residence.  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A





14.

Plate 14. Interior of front entrance in the Cook Farm residence.  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92 BCA #138A



15.

**Plate 15.** Interior of front entrance in the Cook Farm residence.  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92 BCA #138A



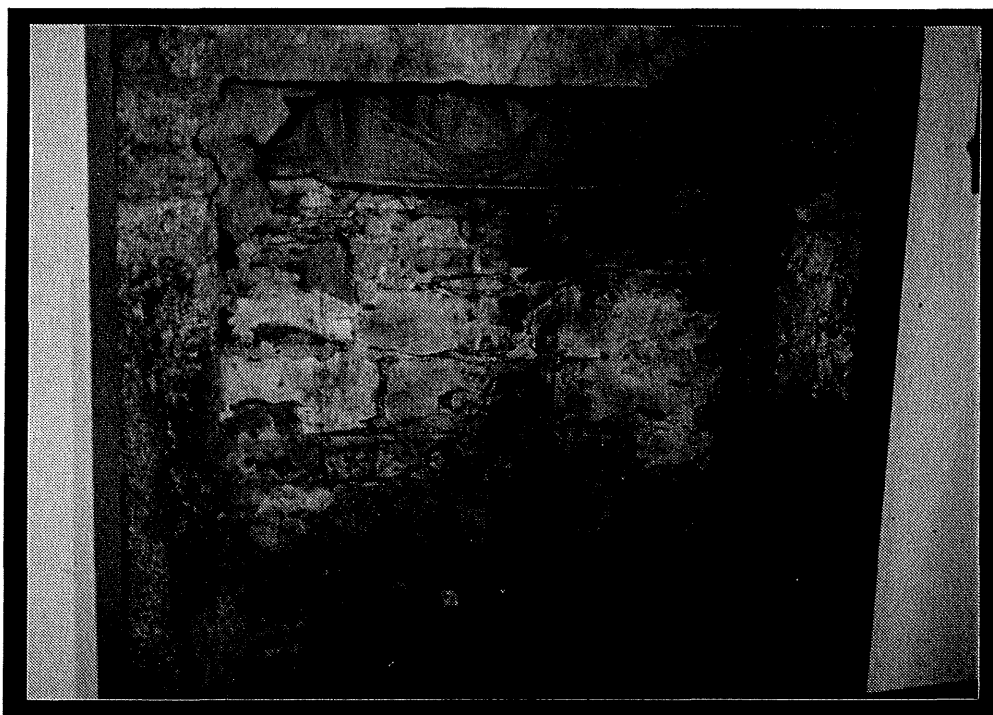
16.

Plate 16. Photographic coverage of deeply set window sill in the Cook  
Farm residence.

Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A





17.



18.

Plate 17. Sealed fireplace or "tunnel" in basement of Cook Farm residence.

Plate 18. Sealed basement window in the Cook Farm barn, looking east.

Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A



19.



20.

Plate 19. Portion of archeological site 13FD62 between the Grant House and U.S. Highway 218, looking northwest.

Plate 20. Archeological site 13FD62, east of the Grant House. Looking west.

Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A



21.

**Plate 21.** Photographic coverage of archeological site 13FD63, facing  
northwest.  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A



22.



23.

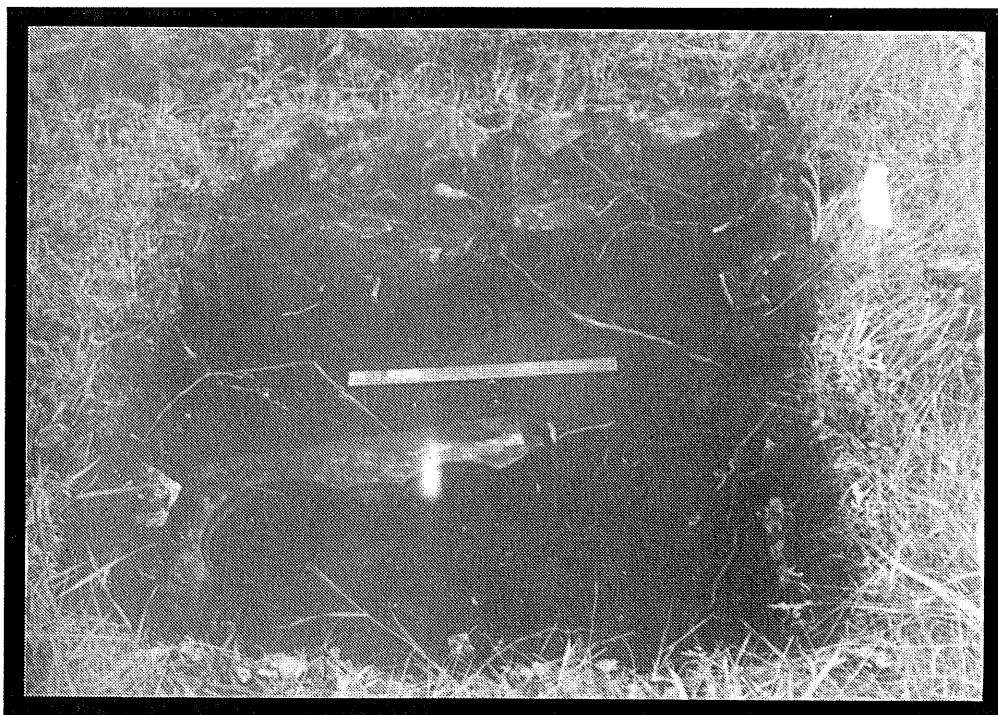
Plate 22. Entrance to the limestone quarry at 13FD69, facing southeast.

Plate 23. Archeological site 13FD69, looking south.  
Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A



24.



25.

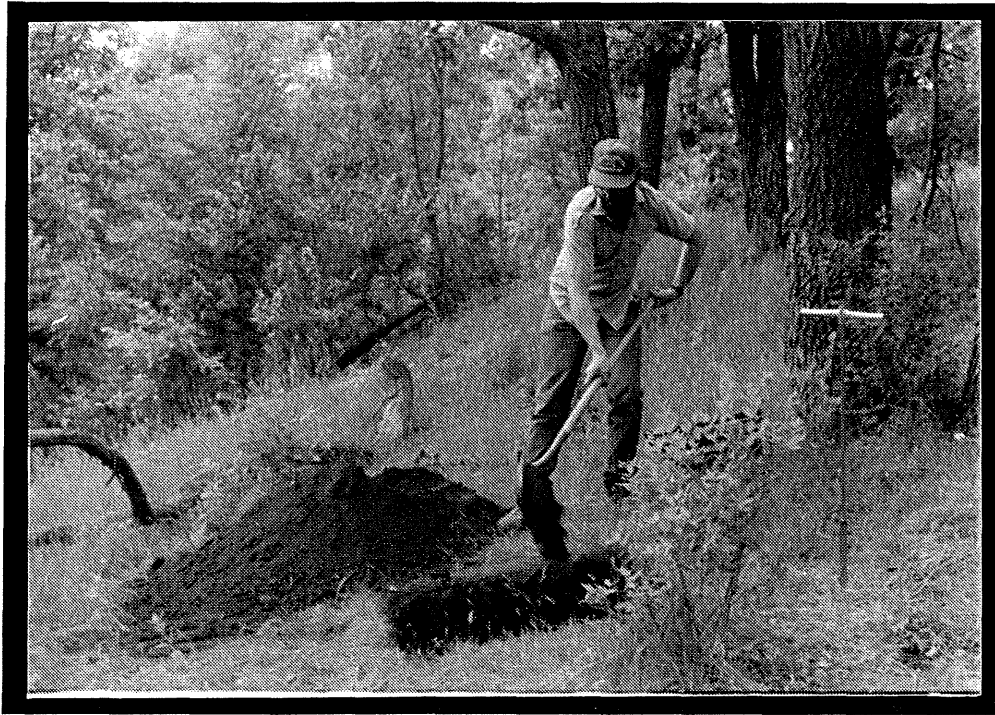
Plate 24. BCA personnel excavating test unit at site 13FD64, looking northeast.

Plate 25. Photographic coverage of Test Unit 1 (13FD64) looking southeast.

Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A





26.

Plate 26. BCA personnel backfilling Test Unit 3 (13FD64), looking southwest.

Field date: 6/1-7/24/92

BCA #138A

## **APPENDIX I: Correspondence**



# State Historical Society of Iowa

The Historical Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs

June 2, 1992

In reply refer to: RC#  
891034045

Randall B. Faber  
Historic Preservation Specialist  
Office of Project Planning  
Planning and Research Division  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
800 Lincoln Way  
Ames, Iowa 50010

RECEIVED

JUN - 5 1992

OFFICE OF PROJECT PLANNING

RE: FHWA/IDOT - F-18-6(32)--16-34 - FLOYD COUNTY - PRIMARY - U.  
S. 18/218 CORRIDOR FROM RUDD TO CHARLES CITY, IOWA -  
RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COOK FARM, A NATIONAL REGISTER  
PROPERTY.

Dear Randy:

While you are awaiting our comment on the project report itself, this letter is to provide specific recommendations regarding the Cook Farm in answer to your phone request of last week. At our May 28th meeting where we discussed the potential effect of the "Avenue of the Saints" project on the property known as the Cook Farm, we recommended that additional research be conducted to answer various questions about the farm and its history.

The original nomination which listed the property in the National Register of Historic Places on June 18, 1979 had been based largely on the remarkable stone architecture of the buildings that comprised the farmstead under National Register Criterion-C. Since it appears that the property may have significance as well under National Register Criterion-A for its association with events in local or state agricultural history, certain aspects of the property's history deserve investigation. Here is what we recommend:

1. Examine land records to map out the farm as of when:
  - a. Elizabeth Strawn bought the property from James O'Hair --evidently in 1861; and
  - b. A. W. Cook bought the property from E. C. Chapin about 1870.
2. Examine the history of the farm and its development under its owners up until A. W. Cook's death through:
  - a. Research of surviving newspapers targeted to obtain such things as:
    - (1) Obituary notices of Strawn and Cook, the latter of whom died February 12, 1887;

☐ 402 Iowa Avenue  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240  
(319) 335-3916

☒ Capitol Complex  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
(515) 281-5111

☐ Montauk  
Box 372  
Clermont, Iowa 52135  
(319) 422-7172



- (2) Announcements of the sale of the farm from one owner to the next; and
- (3) Reports of departures and arrivals of A. W. Cook from trips to France for purchasing Norman Percheron horses.
- b. Manuscript census data of agricultural and population schedules for this township;
- c. Annual reports of the Iowa agricultural society and department of agriculture which give accounts of agricultural activities in Floyd County during these years;
- d. Published county histories, centennial books and centennial editions of newspapers; and
- e. Probate records of A. W. Cook's estate.

The idea of the above research is to document the place of this farm in the agricultural life of the area or state and, if possible, to better document when buildings comprising the farmstead were built and by whom, and learn how the physical boundaries of the farm changed over time.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (515) 281-3306.

Sincerely,



Lowell J. Soike, Ph.D  
Historian, Historic Preservation Bureau

cc: Bob Bortle, District 2  
David Gibbs, FHWA

**APPENDIX II:**  
**Original NRHP nomination and evaluation forms for Cook Farm**

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: STATE REVIEW COMMITTEE EVALUATION FORM

HISTORIC NAME: Cook Farm

COMMON NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: U.S. 218, about 3 miles south of Charles City, Floyd CountyOWNER: David and Judith Hutchins, R.R. 3, Charles City 50616

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Cook farm is a 3-acre complex of residential and agricultural buildings situated on a heavily travelled highway. The immediate surroundings are rural, with a mixture of pasture, cropland, and stands of timber. The structures (two houses, and a block of connecting barns) are all built of locally-quarried limestone and date from about 1860. A small house, and two sections of the barn, are believed to have been built in the mid-1850's. The main house, and third section of barn, date from the early 1860's.

The main house has a two-story front gable main block, with a one story dining/kitchen wing off the south side. The dressed limestone blocks are laid in a random ashlar pattern, and the corners of the house are quoined. Windows have broad, dressed stone lintels. The plain cornice is wood.

The main facade is three bays wide, with a lunette window in the attic story and entrance to right of center. The doorway is framed by diamond-shaped sidelights and a transom with lozenge-shaped lights. It is sheltered by a small flat roof on paired brackets (possibly a later feature). The rear and north side have three windows on each floor.

A porch, with chamfered wooden posts, is recessed in the west side (front) of the kitchen wing. Another extends across the rear of this section.

Directly behind the main house is a considerably smaller stone house, its walls laid up with rubble ashlar. This little (18' x 22') side gable structure has a 12' x 12' kitchen section on the east end. Window and door openings have flat arches with roughly cut radiating voussoirs. The main entrance is centered in the south wall. The east wall has a doorway into the kitchen area, and another opening directly outside. The house was once partitioned into two rooms; it is now one, with a concrete floor.

The barn, oriented east-west, and located south of the two houses, has four sections. The westernmost is a three-story cube, 40' x 40', with louvred wooden cupola centered in the low hipped roof. The walls are of random ashlar, the corners quoined, and the windows (two each facade (N,S, and W), each floor) have flat arches with radiating voussoirs similar to those on the small house. The main entrance of this block is on the second level, north side: a wide, timber-framed doorway above which is a round-arched hay door. On the south side are two doors at ground level, opening into pasture. The ground floor contains horse stalls; the second, machine storage and hay bins; the third is an open loft.

The second section appears to be contemporaneous with the first. Joined to it on the east is a third section of the same size and shape, the two forming one long gable-roofed rectangle. The third section appears to be later (as evidenced by the masonry), probably of the same age as the main house. The second section has milking stanchions on the ground floor. The ground floor of the third section also housed cattle. The upper floors of both sections are open lofts. On the north side is an abandoned silo.

At the extreme east end is a frame addition, rebuilt on original foundations in 1978.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: state —

DATE(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: c. 1855-1865

AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Native stone buildings from the mid 19th century are significant for their very scarcity in Iowa. The majority are concentrated in a few specific areas: Madison County, and north-central and northeast Iowa, where the geological process has left readily-available sources of building stone. Most of these buildings are houses, with schools and churches next in number. Of extreme rarity are stone barns.

The Cook farm is perhaps unique in Iowa, its three structures significant both individually and collectively. Of particular interest is the west section of the barn block -- its cubic form is practically unknown in the state. The two houses present an illuminating contrast to one another. The earlier house, with its basic form, rubble walls and roughly-shaped jack arches, is true "pioneer" architecture, demonstrating extreme economy of effort in the use of local materials. The big house, on the other hand, is clearly more sophisticated in form, handling of materials and detail, and suggest the hand of a master mason.

One might suppose, given the scale and distinctive shape of the big barn, that it was built the same time as the main house. However, it has the rubble walls, rough quoining and stone jack arches of the little house. One might conclude, then, that James O'Hair (to whom these structures are attributed) had a firm sense of priorities: cramped quarters (perhaps considered temporary) for himself, but spacious, attractive quarters for the livestock from which he made his livelihood.

The site of Cook Farm was acquired by the O'Hair family in the early 1850's. About 1860, Elizabeth Strawn came to the Charles City area. She was a native of Ohio (b. 1810); her family moved to Indiana about 1825, and Elizabeth spent most of her life there. Two husbands (James Oxford and Enoch Strawn) died, leaving her with a large family and, apparently a substantial estate. She brought her family to Floyd County, and "purchased a large tract of land in St. Charles Township" (History(1882), p.777), which included the O'Hair farm. The craft of stonemasonry was by this time well-established in the Charles City area (a number of extant commercial blocks are of this material), and Elizabeth Strawn is credited with commissioning the erection of the substantial, dressed-stone farmhouse, and adding the third section to the barn.

About 1865, Mrs. Strawn moved into Charles City, selling her "farms" in the process. The stone complex was sold to A.W. Cook, who lived here until his death in 1887. Cook was born in Boston in 1810, and after a peripatetic career through Vermont, NY, New Orleans, and Alabama, he stopped in Kentucky, married, and began raising fine livestock. He moved again, to Illinois, and then in 1868 or 1869 came to Floyd County, to "a beautiful stock farm on Cedar Creek" (1887 History, p. 1013). Cook became well-known in subsequent years for his fine horses. He imported Percherons from France (and is credited with being the first to do so), and raised Shorthorn cattle.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

History of Floyd County, Iowa. Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Co., 1882, pp. 265,521, 535,777,1013.

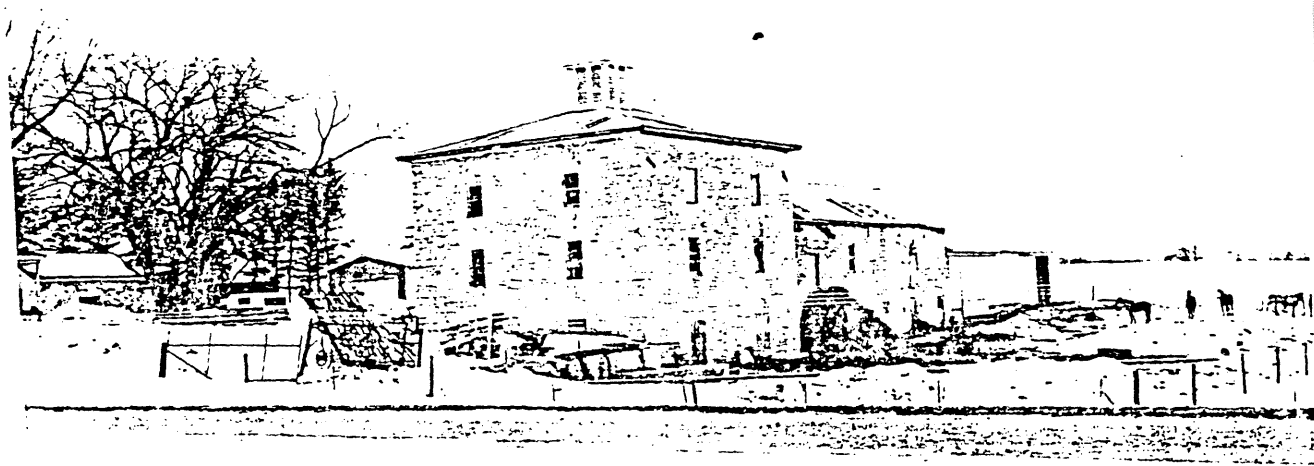
The Iowan. Winter, 1964-65, p. 14.

Interviews: Mark Ferguson, Charles City (deceased); Allen Andres, Charles City (1978).

Mason City Globe-Gazette, Jan. 7, 1977, p.7.

Charles City Press, Dec. 7, 1978, p. 2.

Waterloo Courier, \_\_\_\_\_ 1925. p. 1.





Floyd

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Cook Farm, Charles City vicinity, Floyd County, Iowa

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

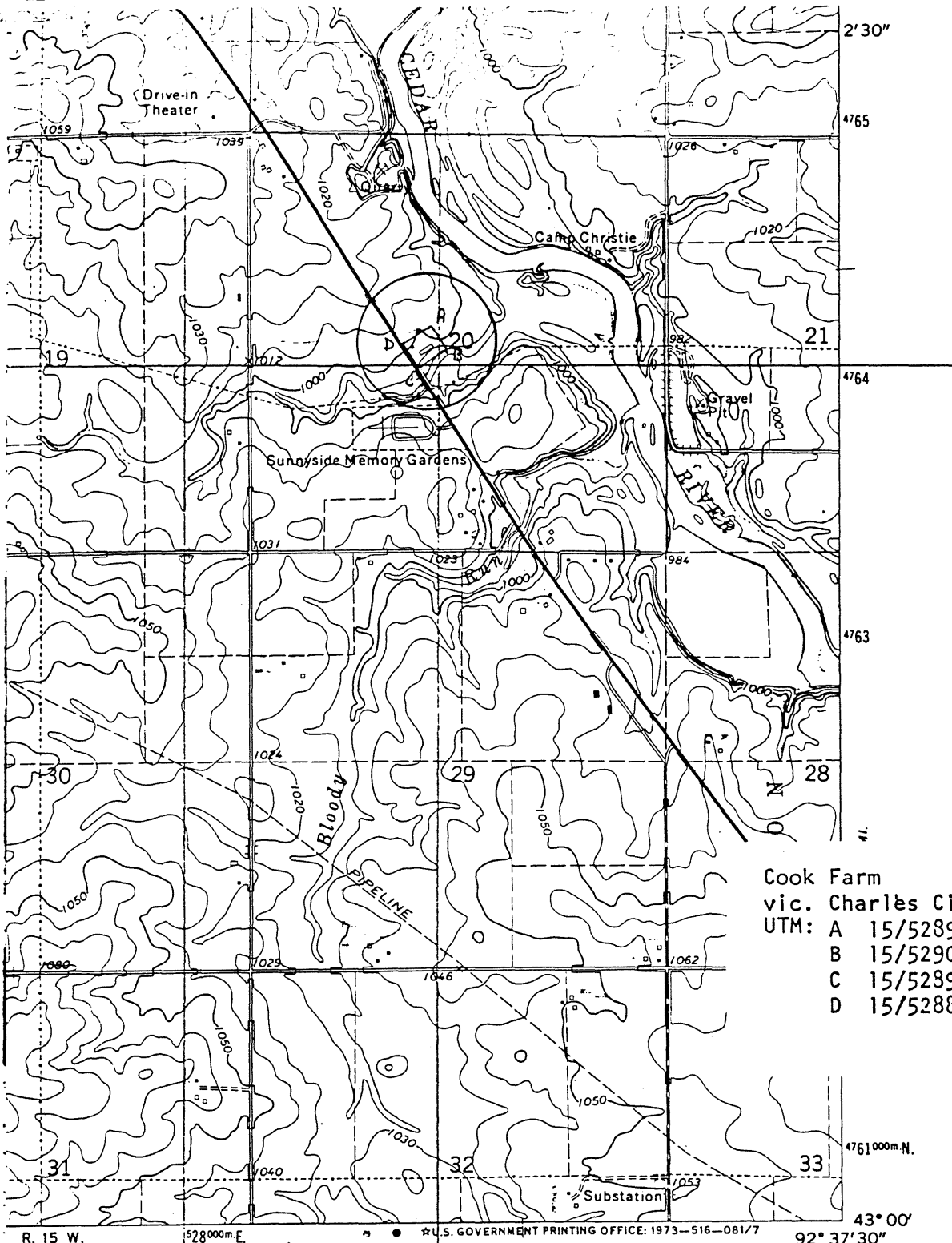
About 1865, Mrs. Strawn moved into Charles City, selling her "farms" in the process. The stone complex was sold to A.W. Cook, who lived here until his death in 1887. Cook was born in Boston in 1810, and after a peripatetic career through Vermont, New York, New Orleans, and Alabama, he stopped in Kentucky, married, and began raising fine livestock. He moved again, to Illinois, and then in 1868 or 1869 came to Floyd County to "a beautiful stock farm on Cedar Creek" (History 1882, p. 1013). Cook became well-known in subsequent years for his fine horses. He imported Percherons from France (and is credited with being the first in the state to do so), and raised Shorthorn cattle.

\*Two other examples are the Green Estate in Jones County, with eight buildings of limestone, and a farmstead in Dubuque County containing a stone house, small barn and food cellar.

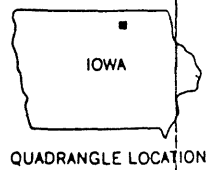
Addendum to No. 10, Verbal Boundary Description:

The approximately 4 acres included in this nomination have been selected simply to take in the buildings and to allow a limited "buffer" zone around them. ~~Cook Farm~~ at one time encompassed some 600 acres in Section 20, an area which over the years has been reduced to about 100 acres, these now in the hands of the Hutchins. Because the buildings of Cook Farm are significant principally for their architectural qualities, a four-acre block of land was chosen for inclusion in the Register, rather than the 100 acres which now comprise Yester Farm, Inc.

4 acres



Cook Farm  
vic. Charles City, Floyd Co. IA  
UTM: A 15/528960 4764150  
B 15/529035 4764060  
C 15/528920 4764000  
D 15/528860 4764080



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road

Interstate Route  
 U. S. Route  
 State Route

**CHARLES CITY, IOWA**  
N4300—W9237.5/7.5

1971

AMS 7470 II SW—SERIES V876

(NASHUA)  
7469 1 NE



**APPENDIX III**  
**Supplemental Iowa Site Forms**  
**Sites 13FD62, 13FD63, 13FD64, and 13FD69**



OFFICIAL SITE NUMBER 13FD62

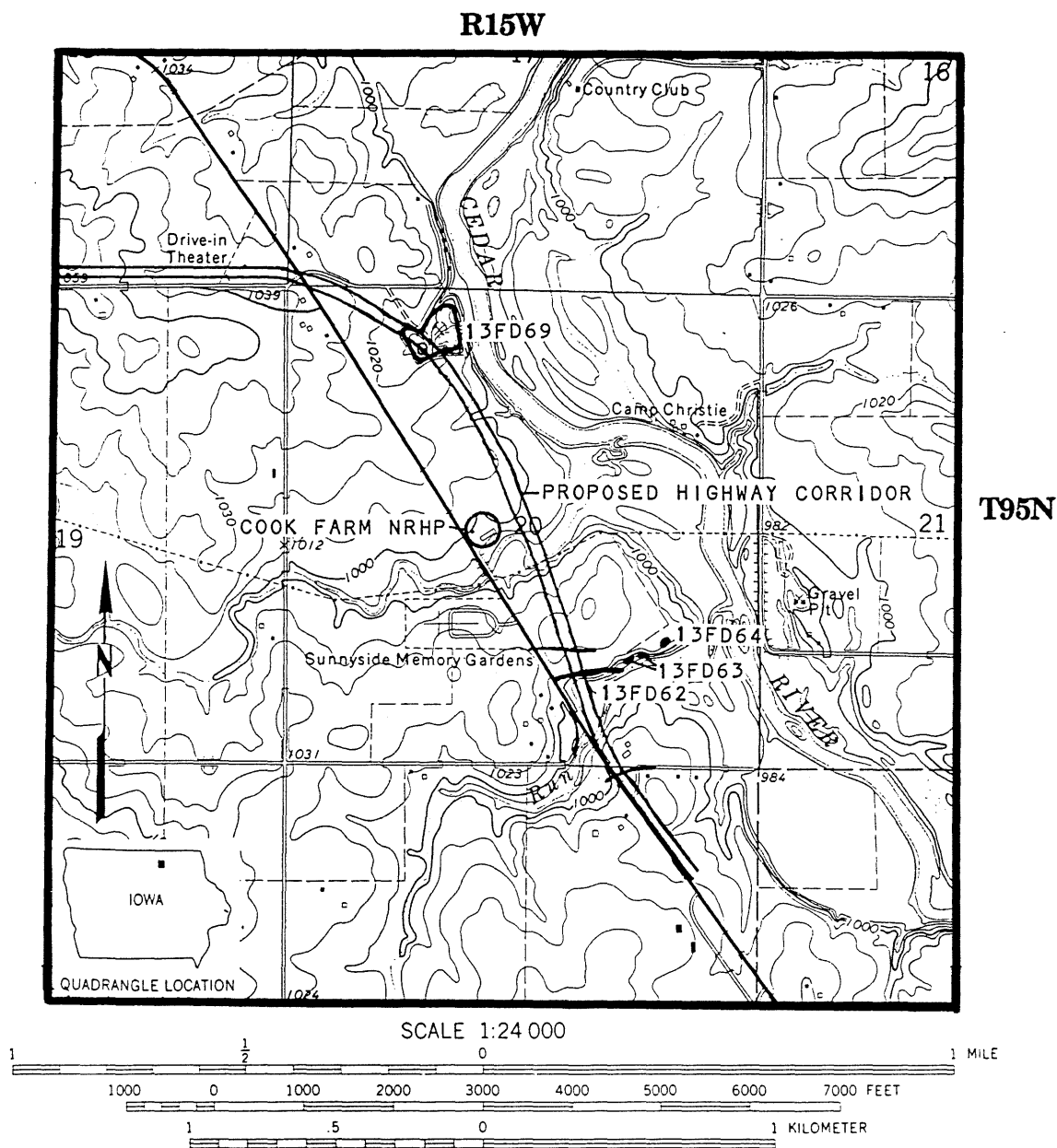
ACCESSION NUMBER

1. County Floyd County Local site name River Road
2. Range R15W Township T95N Section 20
3. On the N $\frac{1}{2}$ , ~~X $\frac{1}{2}$~~ , SW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
 $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ .  
Transportation: Stagecoach/  
4. Type of site Wagon Trail remnant Maps used USGS 7.5' Charles City quad (1971)
5. Tenant \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
6. Owner Mrs. Wilbur Becker Address \_\_\_\_\_
7. Informant \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
8. General location of site in relation to streams, bluffs, river terraces,  
including modern landmarks such as roads and houses.  
The site is positioned on an upland shoulder and drainage sideslope. It is approximately  
1.93 miles southeast of Charles City, just off existing U.S Highway 218  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Estimated site size 244m x 3m; 732m<sup>2</sup>
9. Present condition Impacted by construction of U.S. Highway 218 and the construction of a  
house.
10. Previous excavations None known.  
By whom \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
11. Material collected: a. Bone \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Stone \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Pottery \_\_\_\_\_  
d. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
12. Method of collection No material was collected.
13. Other material reported \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
14. Recommendations No further work is recommended.
15. References Additional investigations of the Cook Farm NRHP Property and four potentially related Archeological Sites, St. Charles Township, Floyd County, Iowa.
16. Recorded by Tim Roberts Address Bear Creek Archeology, Inc., Decorah, IA.  
Contract Completion Report/
17. Date recorded 7/17/92 Research Paper BCA 138A

# Sketch map of location

Range R15W Township T95N Section 20

Indicate the chief topographical features, such as streams and elevations. Also indicate houses and roads. Indicate the site location by enclosing the site area with dotted line.



## Notes:

The "river road" stagecoach line was established sometime after November, 1854. By 1876, the river road was incorporated as part of the Independence and State Line Road.

## ACCESSION NUMBER

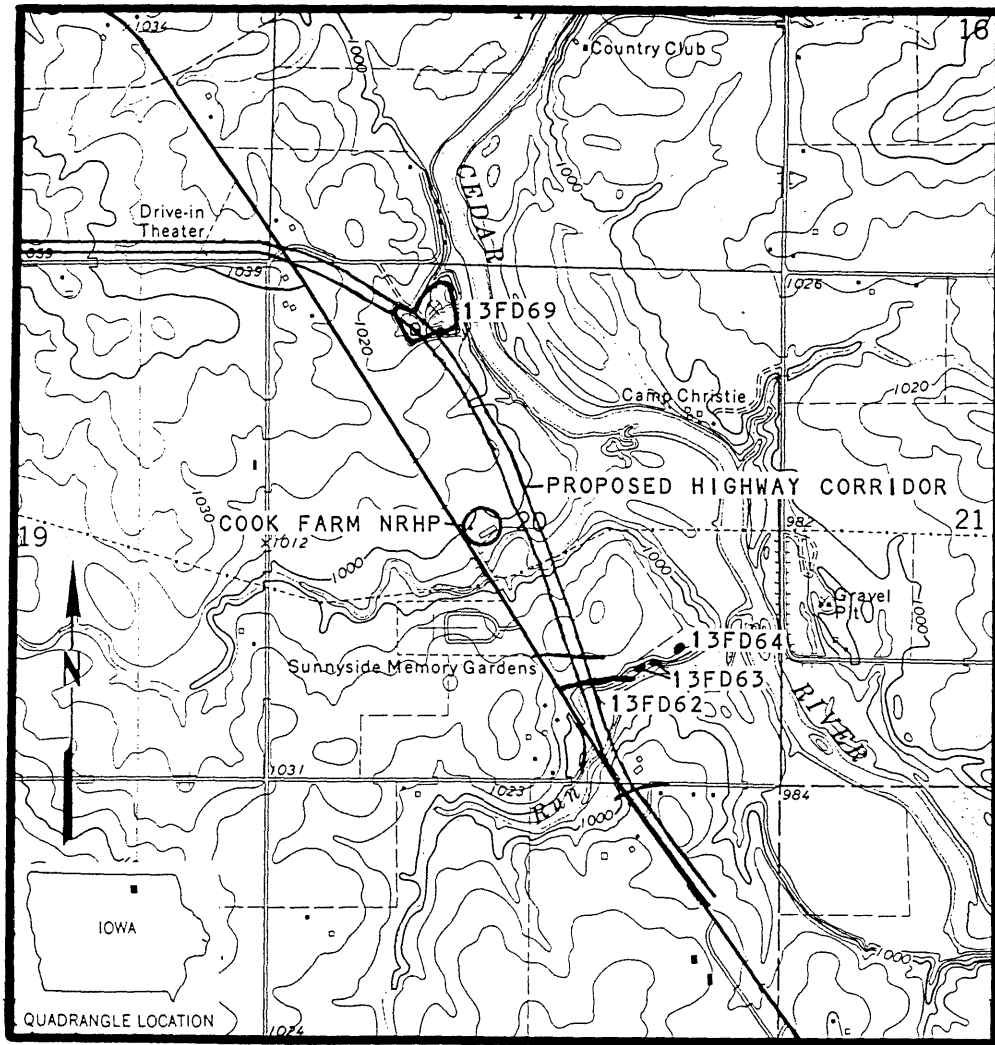
1. County Floyd County Local site name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Range R15W Township T95N Section 20
3. On the NE 1/4, NE 1/4, SW 1/4, SE 1/4,  
NE 1/4, NW 1/4, SE 1/4, SE 1/4,
4. Type of site Limestone quarry Maps used USGS 7.5' Charles City quad (1971)
5. Tenant \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
6. Owner Mrs. Wilbur Becker Address \_\_\_\_\_
7. Informant \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
8. General location of site in relation to streams, bluffs, river terraces, including modern landmarks such as roads and houses.  
The site is located within a drainage sideslope, approximately 1.97 miles southeast of Charles City.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Estimated site size 90m x 30m; 2,700m<sup>2</sup>  
The quarry does not appear to have been disturbed since its use in the late  
nineteenth century.
9. Present condition \_\_\_\_\_
10. Previous excavations None known.  
By whom \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
11. Material collected: a. Bone \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Stone \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Pottery \_\_\_\_\_  
d. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
12. Method of collection No material was collected.
13. Other material reported \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
14. Recommendations No further work is recommended.  
Additional Investigations of the Cook Farm NRHP Property and four potentially  
related Archeological Sites, St. Charles Township, Floyd County, Iowa.
15. References \_\_\_\_\_
16. Recorded by Tim Roberts Address Bear Creek Archeology, Inc., Decorah, IA.  
Contract Completion Report/  
Research Paper BCA 138A
17. Date recorded 7/17/92

# Sketch map of location

Range R15W Township T95N Section 20

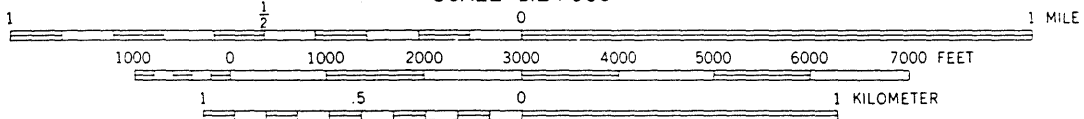
Indicate the chief topographical features, such as streams and elevations. Also indicate houses and roads. Indicate the site location by enclosing the site area with dotted line.

**R15W**



**T95N**

SCALE 1:24 000



## Notes:

The limestone quarry at 13FD63 was in use by 1878 (Warner & Foote 1878).

OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST  
EASTLAWN BUILDING  
THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA  
IOWA CITY, IOWA 52242

IOWA SITE RECORD SUPPLEMENTAL  
OFFICIAL SITE NUMBER 13FD64

ACCESSION NUMBER

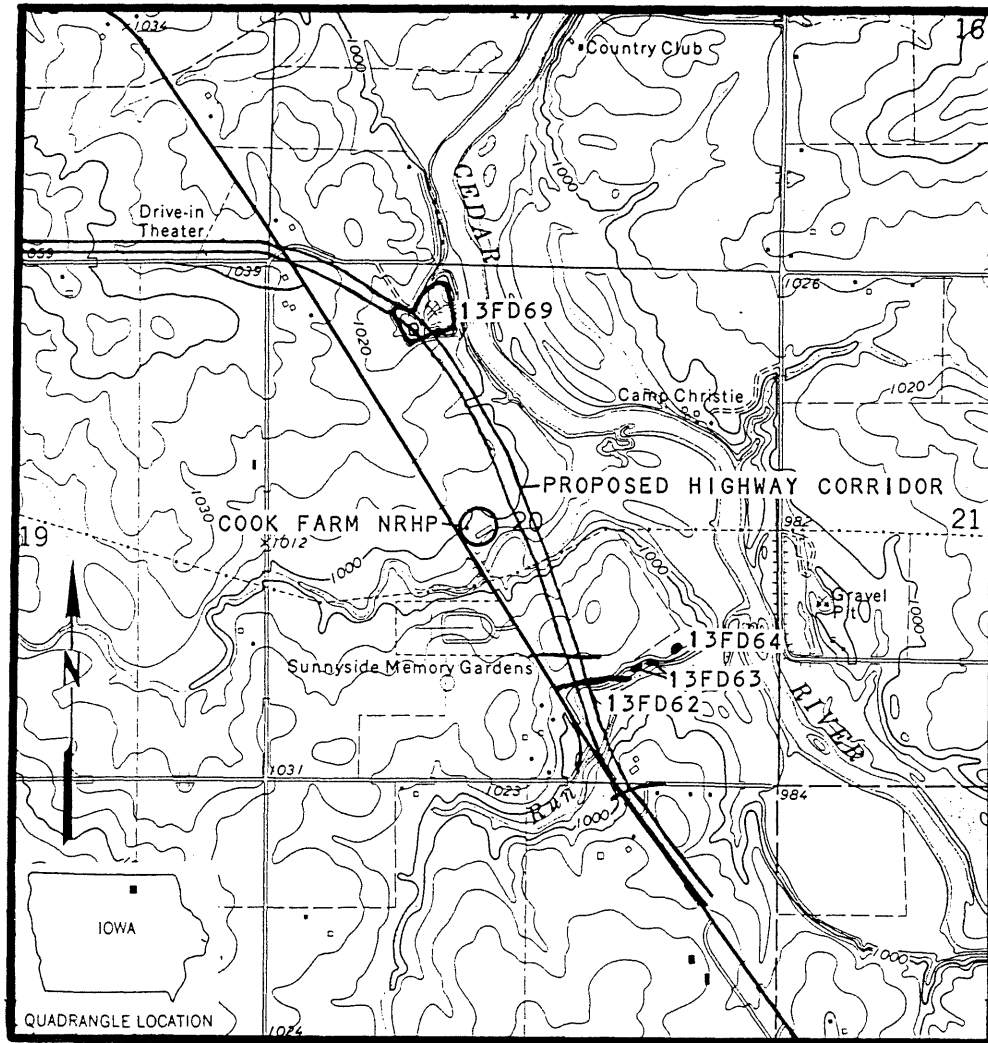
1. County Floyd County Local site name Ambrose W. Story cabin
2. Range R15W Township T95N Section 20
3. On the  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ .
4. Type of site Farmstead: habitation site Maps used USGS 7.5' Charles City quad (1971).  
(cabin)
5. Tenant \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
6. Owner Mrs. Wilbur Becker Address \_\_\_\_\_
7. Informant \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
8. General location of site in relation to streams, bluffs, river terraces,  
including modern landmarks such as roads and houses.  
The site is located on an upland shoulder overlooking Bloody Run, a third order drainage. The  
site is approximately 2.0 miles southeast of Charles City.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Estimated site size 4m x 6m; 24m<sup>2</sup>
9. Present condition Good, has not been impacted by cultivation or grazing.
10. Previous excavations None known.  
By whom \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
11. Material collected: a. Bone \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Stone \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Pottery \_\_\_\_\_  
d. Other 6 brick fragments, 65 machine - cut nails, 1 drawn wire nail, 2 cast iron stove top pieces,  
and 1 standard American pollax (single bit)  
Owner University of Iowa Address Iowa City
12. Method of collection Shovel test and test unit excavations.
13. Other material reported None  
Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
14. Recommendations Recommended for nomination to the NRHP.
15. References Additional Investigations of the Cook Farm NRHP Property and four potentially  
related Archeological Sites, St. Charles Township, Floyd County, Iowa.
16. Recorded by Tim Roberts Address Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. Decorah, IA.  
Contract Completion Report/
17. Date recorded 7/17/92 Research Paper BCA 138A

# Sketch map of location

Range R15W Township R95N Section 20

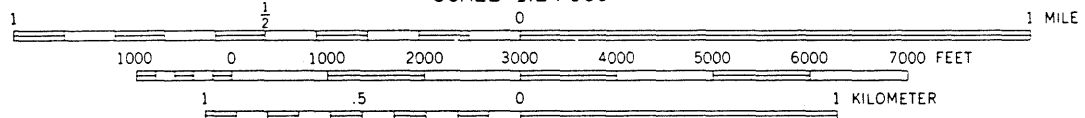
Indicate the chief topographical features, such as streams and elevations. Also indicate houses and roads. Indicate the site location by enclosing the site area with dotted line.

**R15W**



**T95N**

SCALE 1:24 000



## Notes:

Site 13FD64 appears to represent the Ambrose W. Story cabin, built in the spring of 1850 (Monroe & McCarney 1976: 6-7). Ambrose W. Story was the first white settler in Floyd Count.



OFFICIAL SITE NUMBER 13FD69

ACCESSION NUMBER

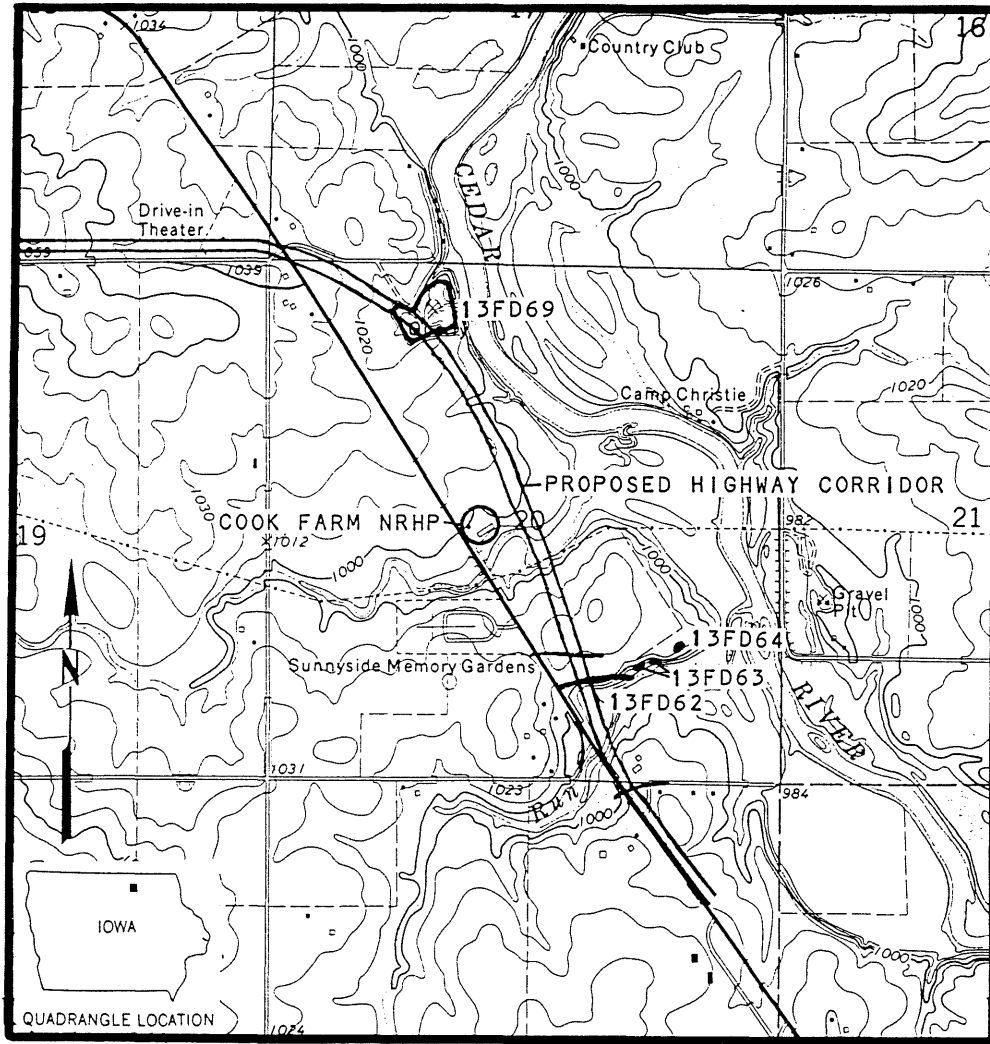
1. County Floyd County Local site name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Range R15W Township T95N Section 20
3. On the NW 1/4, NE 1/4, NW 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4.  
1/4, 1/4, 1/4, 1/4, 1/4.
4. Type of site Limestone quarry Maps used USGS 7.5' Charles City quad (1971)
5. Tenant \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
6. Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
7. Informant \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
8. General location of site in relation to streams, bluffs, river terraces,  
including modern landmarks such as roads and houses.  
The quarry is excavated within an upland bluff overlooking the west bank of the Cedar River. The  
site is situated approximately 1.21 miles southeast of Charles City.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Estimated site size 200m x 150m; 30,000m<sup>2</sup>
9. Present condition currently being filled with construction debris; also a portion of the  
quarry is being used as a gunnery range.
10. Previous excavations None known.  
By whom \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
11. Material collected: a. Bone \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Stone \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Pottery \_\_\_\_\_  
d. Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
12. Method of collection No material was collected.
13. Other material reported \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
14. Recommendations No further work is recommended.  
Additional investigations of the Cook Farm NRHP Property and four potentially
15. References related Archeological Sites, St. Charles Township, Floyd County, Iowa.
16. Recorded by Tim Roberts Address Bear Creek Archeology, Inc., Decorah, IA  
Contract Completion Report/
17. Date recorded 7/17/92 Research Paper BCA 138A

# Sketch map of location

Range R15W Township T95N Section 20

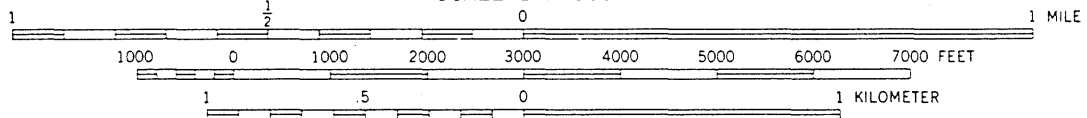
Indicate the chief topographical features, such as streams and elevations. Also indicate houses and roads. Indicate the site location by enclosing the site area with dotted line.

**R15W**



**T95N**

SCALE 1:24 000



**Notes:**

**SETTLEMENT OF  
U.S. HIGHWAY 18/218  
AREA, CIRCA 1848-1849**  
(Adapted from General Office Plats  
for Floyd County, 1848-1849)

MAP BY T. ROBERTS 8/15/91

T96N  
T95N

0 1 MI  
0 1.609 KM

LEGEND

 DRAINAGES

 WETLANDS

R17W R16W

R16W R15W

Stewart Creek

Indian Cedar  
River

Trail  
Bloody Run

This is a detailed historical plat map of Cook Farm, showing land parcels, owners, and acreage. The map is divided into a grid of sections, with various owners and acreage values labeled throughout. A central area is labeled 'Cook Farm' and 'Cook Farm NRHP'. The map includes a scale bar and a north arrow.

**Key Owners and Acreage:**

- Top Left:** J.R. Embley (176), J.R. Bailey (230), Joseph Tetzl (160), F.D. Gregg (40), James Geler (105), F.E. Walker (40), T.C. Brown (40), J. Brown (40), J. F. Strickland (25).
- Top Right:** O. Blockley (60), J. Brown (40), J. F. Strickland (25), J. F. Strickland (25), J. F. Strickland (25).
- Middle Left:** John R. Beck (160), Mary Ryan (80), V. Stockoff (21.01), W.E. Waller (50), J.W. Waller (160), John A. Ketch (160), J.H. Doolittle (80), J.H. Doolittle (80).
- Middle Right:** John Kellery (27), John Kellery (27), John Kellery (27), John Kellery (27), John Kellery (27).
- Bottom Left:** Mary Schilling (80), Adam Jungerman (160), A.E. Waller (80), F.F. Farham (80), B.M. Dolmader (160), M.C. Colentine (200), J. Schuler (100), J. Schuler (100), J. Schuler (100).
- Bottom Right:** E.M. Mitchell (160), J. Schuler (100), J. Schuler (100), J. Schuler (100), J. Schuler (100).

**Map Details:**

- Scale:** 1 inch = 40 feet.
- North Arrow:** Points towards the top of the map.
- Labels:** Various names and acreage values are scattered throughout the map, indicating individual land parcels and their owners.
- Central Area:** Labeled 'Cook Farm' and 'Cook Farm NRHP'.

T95N

R16W R15W

